2: Jochelson E-5 (1884-1902) 1933 Yakut

## PREFACE

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The Yakut were under the observation of the author for a long time, but, in the main, the data presented in this paper were obtained during two periods of field study. Thus, the most intensive study was made among the groups living on the Kolyma River during the years 1884 to 1894, as a member of an expedition of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society of St. Petersburg fitted out at the expense of I. M. Sibiriakov. During this time the author traveled from the mouth of the Kolyma to its sources and back, visiting en route all the Yakut settlements discovered. At present most of the Yakut live much farther south, chiefly in the region of the southern Lena and its tributaries. This southernmost group of Yakut was visited in the years 1900 to 1902 when the author was a member of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition, organized by the American Museum of Natural History for the intensive study of eastern Siberian and northwestern American anthropological problems. It was while engaged in the latter field study that an ethnological collection, which is now in the Museum, was made. The illustrations in this paper are for the most part from objects in that collection.

WALDEMAR JOCHELSON.

Nice, France
January 13, 1933.

RV2

/1/ Introduction

114 [101] Toward the end of the year 1872, chiefly at the suggestion of the academician Friedrich Schmidt, the Imperial Russian Geographical Society in St. Petersburg decided to send out an expedition to explore the practically completely unknown Lower (nishnaja /nizhnyaya/) Tungúska and Olenék rivers, principally with reference to geology, and chose the geologist Alexander Czekanówsky of Irkutsk, well known through his excellent investigations of the geological conditions of the Irkutsk government and the Baikal Mountains over many years, to carry out this plan. Besides a young man experienced as a collector and preparator, Mr. Ksenshopólsky, a capable topographer from Irkutsk, Mr. [101] Nachwálnych, was to accompany the expedition. Before the departure of the expedition in March of 1873, Czekanówsky, with whom I had frequently undertaken shorter trips, particularly to Lake Kossogól, suggested to me that I, at that time an instructor of mathematics and physics in the government Gymnasium in Irkutsk, also go along on this trip to check the topographical data by means of astronomical observations and to make magnetic observations, which here, /2/ relatively near the Siberian maximum of magnetic intensity, were bound to be of great scientific interest.

[122] Through the good offices of the Geographical Society, I was granted permission by his Excellency the Minister for the Enlightenment of the Masses to take part in this expedition and was also given the necessary funds, and therefore by the middle of May I was able to follow the other gentlemen, whom I joined in the upper part of the Lower Tungúska in the village of Népa. During the first days of September (here, as elsewhere, also in reporting meteorological data, the old style) we reached the Jenisseí /Yenisei/ not far from Turuchansk /Turukhansk/ with rich yields, and, after a prolonged stay in the city of Jenisseísk /Yeniseisk/, we arrived in Irkutsk again at the beginning of November. After I gave up my service connection here at the Gymnasium, we set out from Irkutsk as early as December, this time only Czekanówsky and myself, to carry out the second part of our expedition, the exploration of the Olenék, and we did not return until January, 1875.

121 [114] The following pages contain a description of this latter journey, popularized for the general public. Included are reminiscences of the Tungúska journey and some of the findings of Czekanówsky,

/9 cont./

14 conditions, he busied himself incessantly with geology, with which he had fallen in love at the universities of Kiev and Dorpat, most eagerly observing and collecting. His keen observations and his invaluable collections earned him the sympathies of the Petersburg scholars; he secured the means for more and more extensive exploratory journeys and finally, after their termination, returned to Europe in the spring of 1876. Afterwards, in recognition of his great scientific accomplishments, he was completely pardoned by His Majesty the Emperor, and he was even permitted unhampered residence at court -- an exception from his fellow sufferers. His life seemed destined to become ever happier; from all sides he was met with warm sympathy; a trip to Sweden in the course of the summer brought him in /10/ contact with foreign colleagues. Seemingly strengthened and cheered, he returned to St. Petersburg. Then suddenly that malady, the seed of which had long been present, appeared with terrible force, and before his many friends could have an inkling of it the catastrophe followed. Peace to his ashes! Honor to his memory!

/11/ First Chapter

100 Departure from Irkutsk. -- Travel papers. -- Trade on the Lena. -- High grain prices. -- Planned navigation on the Tunguska. -- Mild winter. -- Arrangement of the post stations. -- Kirensk. -- Bánschtschikowa. -- The Dmítrjew brothers. -- Arrival in the village of Podwolótschnaja on the Lower Tunguska. -- The villages of Népa and Preobrashénskoje. -- Unscrupulous trader. -- Agriculture. -- Stay in Móga and Jerbochotschón. -- Weather. -- Scarcity of birds. -- Preparations for the journey.

● 122 On December 29 (old style), 1873, all the preparations for the journey were finally completed. Since the evening before, two large, mat-covered pack-sleds (koschewá), loaded with the principal part of our baggage, had stood ready in the yard; the third sled, intended for Czekanowsky, me, and some hand luggage, was to be procured from the post and changed at each

/11 cont./

● 122 station. All that remained was to take leave of Irkutsk and, with it, European civilization more or less. Many friends had appeared for this purpose, among them four representatives of the Baltic provinces (Dr. of Med. Holtermann, Estonia, Captain Unterberger and Gymnasium teacher Lehmann, Livonia, and Dr. of Phil. Neumann, Courland). Again the champagne corks popped, just as they had a few days before when the Administrative Committee of the Siberian Section of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society had given us a farewell dinner spiced by the happiest of moods, merry songs resounded, /12/ reminiscences of our student days in Dorpat, and, amidst the notes of the old school song, "Bemooster Bursche zieh' ich aus /old students, I set out/," we got into the sleds and with a happy hurrah went out into the winter night, not into the suffering and joys of philistine life, to be sure, but, on the contrary, as one would say at home, into the inhospitable wildernesses of the icy far north, for us an almost unexplored and inexhaustible field for our scientific activities.

The first station, still very mountainous, was quickly put behind us. For about nine versts the route ascended sharply uphill almost continuously, until it reached its culmination point on the heights known to the people of Irkutsk as wessjólaja gorá, that is, pleasure mountain, from which on clear days one enjoys a magnificent panorama of the Baikal Mountains as far as the Tunkin Alps, an alpine landscape of several hundred versts in extent, which often, even in the middle of summer, is projected with snow-covered peaks on the clear horizon. Only from the next station of Chomutówo /Khomutovo/ on does the region become more level and only very gradually climbs to the highest point, which the post route reaches between the stations of Olssónowskaja and Bajandájewskaja. The actual watershed between the Angará and Léna, lower than the above-mentioned ridges, lies somewhat farther on, about eight versts beyond Bajandájewskaja. Although the roads were very busy and at almost every station we met travelers, especially merchants who were hurrying to Irkutsk for the annual fair, we were excellently assisted, thanks to the very influential papers with which we

/12 cont./

122 were provided. I regard it as my duty to mention here with gratitude the great generosity with which the local authorities come to the help of scholarly expeditions and without which such undertakings would scarcely be possible, in view of the avarice of the inhabitants, far more developed here than in European Russia.

/13/ Outside of the customary crown podoróshnajas /podorózhnaias/ (1), we also had several blanks, that is, orders

> 1. Orders for a certain number of post horses; only for the bearer of such papers are the horses changed at the post stations.

for the country horses (obywátelskija lóschadi /obyvátelskiia lóshadi/) in the absence of post horses (2), and furthermore an

> 2. The former are usually better than the latter, for they are primarily intended for the use of the rural police.

open letter (otkrýtoje predpissánje /otkrýtoie predpisánie/) from the governor general of East Siberia to all persons concerned, in which they were ordered to give every assistance, apart from the fact that the governor general had already sent similar orders to the ispráwniks /ispravniks/ (district chiefs) of Kirensk and Wiljuisk /Vilyuisk/, through whose territory we would pass.

On the morning of December 31 we reached the market place of Kátschuga /Kachuga/ on the Lena, known for the annual fair that takes place here every year in May, to which the Irkutsk merchants bring to the people in the country the goods no longer very salable there -- at respectable prices, which, of course, become all the higher the farther downriver they go. In May of 1873 I embarked here with a well-known Irkutsk merchant on his merchantman (páwos), with which he intended to take down the Lena to Oljókminsk /Olekminsk/ the goods not salable in Katschuga. Other merchants go down to Jakutsk /Yakutsk/. In every village

/13 cont./

● 122 of any importance they stay for a longer or shorter time and open their trading, if they are not in a special hurry because of an imminent annual fair somewhere, for whoever is on the spot first can, of course, in view of the lack of competition, get the highest prices. The dwellers along the Lena are completely dependent on these merchants and must /14/ pay the prices set by them, but for their part they use a means to get exorbitant profits out of the pockets of the merchants, the use of which I have frequently witnessed and which makes a most comical impression on the spectator who is not involved. Namely, the Lena is very shallow and, in addition, like all great rivers, continuously changes its channel, so that all the merchants hire pilots from Kátschuga on. The latter, very well acquainted, of course, with all the dwellers along the river, know very skillfully how to arrange it so that the barges are stranded just where help can be obtained from the shore inhabitants. There then begins a bargaining which always ends in such a way that the barge's owner has to pay a good sum, up to a hundred rubles, if he does not want to be driven up on the sand beyond rescue, in which case he has the further displeasure of watching as his more fortunate colleagues, quickly carried on by the stream, hurry to the next profitable trading point. Before the trader decides on such a sacrifice, all other means of assistance are usually exhausted first, among which there is in particular the application of "baking powder" (ople-úcha). This most peculiar name here designates a long board which is fastened sometimes at this place on the vessel, sometimes at that one, as needed, and then, turned on its narrow edge by means of a noose, increases the force of the water by damming it.

The next station beyond Kátschuga is the district capital, Wercholénsk /Verkholensk/, the seat of an isprawnik, but otherwise hardly more important than Kátschuga. We greeted the morning of the new year of 1874 at the station of Ustjilgínskaja, noteworthy as the departure point of the entire grain trade on the Lena, in that the /15/ grain brought here from the Angará, from the Balagánsk district, is shipped downriver.

/16 cont./

● 122 In favorable years the steamboat service extends as far as Kátschuga on the Lena. Sometimes, however, the latter is so shallow that the steamboats can scarcely reach Kirensk. They belong to the gold washers and are exclusively intended for transporting the supplies needed for the gold washings either down the Lena or in part also from Jakutsk /Yakutsk/ to the residences, as the depots are called here. In the summer all the post traffic takes place on the Lena in boats. Only from Kátschuga to Shigálowa /Zhigalovo/, a station before Ustjilgínskaja, does a post road lead along the bank, and from there downward only a bridle path runs along the bank. The post boats are quite comfortable and protected from the rain by a covering, not to be compared, of course, with the vessels provided with well-furnished cabins in use among the local gold washers and [132] merchants. Only the deep snow represented an obstacle to our present winter journey, a consequence of the exceedingly mild winter, for whereas otherwise at the beginning of January here the freezing of mercury is the order of the day, we for the most part traveled in temperatures of -10° R., and even higher, and only once, at night, did it reach -25° R.; consequently the snowfall was a much heavier one this winter, since otherwise in the greatest part of Siberia it occurs almost solely during the transitional period from autumn to winter. At the station of Bajandájewskaja, between Irkutsk and Kátschuga, we were even told that on December 28 several thunderclaps were heard. /17/ Winter storms, as is well known, are a rather frequent phenomenon in Western Europe, but a very rare one in Siberia.

Another inconvenience was the steep up-and-down traveling to and from the stations, since the bank of the Lena is quite high at most places. The trip itself generally took place on the ice cover of the Lena, only here and there on solid land in order to cut off the exceedingly large bends; sometimes, too, places made dangerous because of surface water /Aufwasser/ were [132] detoured. I shall have an opportunity later to speak about this, as well as the so-called Aufeisbildungen /surface ice formations/ (náledj or nákipĕnje), which are a great obstacle to all winter travel in Siberia.

/17 cont./

● 122 On the morning of January 2 we passed the station-village of O'rlinskaja, well known because of the grinding stones and millstones sent for great distances, which are hewed out of the Silurian sandstone cropping out here. At the station of Turúzkaja (túruka means salt in Tungus), the salty water handed to us reminded us that a region rich in salt springs begins here. About four versts from the next station, Ustkútskaja, which we reached on the morning of January 3, is the great salt works which supplies a large part of the Lena with salt and, formerly a crown enterprise, has been in private hands since 1873. Of the larger villages on our route I shall mention Márkowskaja, as the seat of the Makárowschen /Makarov/ Wólost /volost/ (district), and at the same time, for those of my readers whom fate, or perhaps the thirst for gold (for this is the road to the famous Oljókminsk /Olekminsk/ and Witím /Vitim/ gold-washing districts), will lead along this road after me, I shall insert the remark that the traveler must definitely bring his food with him here, for the stations, despite the frequently large /18/ and rich villages in which they lie, are in no way equipped to board the traveler. On the whole route only at the station of Alexéjewskaja /Alekseyevskaya/, the next one after Kirensk, was an evening meal offered to us, for here the post clerk was a former cook. Otherwise raw meat for our dogs could scarcely be obtained, and even this was poor and enormously costly -- reindeer meat, which is very common here and not at all prized, and a poor piece besides, for 13 kopecks a pound.

On the morning of January 5, we arrived safe and sound at the district capital, Kirensk, almost exactly a thousand versts from Irkutsk, more populous and better constructed, to be sure, than Wercholensk /Verkholensk/, its equal in administrative respects, but in any case not an enviable place to live either. I have already said something about the local grain prices and about the trade on the Lena generally. Kirensk is wholly dependent on the traveling merchants and the annual fair that takes place here in the spring, and anyone who neglects or is not in a position to provide himself with the necessities for a year is in

/18 cont./

● 122 the worst situation. In the spring, before the arrival of the merchants, even the most ordinary goods that have become necessities, such as tea, sugar, and tobacco, are either completely exhausted in the few shops of the town, or, if a little remains, it is sold for the most fabulous prices. But not only colonial goods are so rare here; a little keg of ordinary cooking butter which I brought with me on my trip in the spring of 1873 excited the attention and the appetites of my guests, all of whom belonged to the so-called better standings, as a rare delicacy not to be had at all in Kirensk at that time. In Kirensk we stopped at the single guesthouse, located on the Lena beside the district school; /19/ it was run by an exiled Pole, but it had only the high prices in common with the European establishments of this kind.

In accordance with all that has been said, Kirensk had little to hold us, and after Czekanowsky had settled some official business, while I, on account of a bad cold, stayed in my room for a day, we continued our journey on the afternoon of January 6 and hastened toward the hospitable Bánschtschikowa, the place of residence of the Dmítrjew /Dmitriyev/ brothers, about 50 versts from Kirensk, which we reached about midnight, found other guests because of the high holidays, and were greeted most cordially by the second brother, Wassílij Nikíforowitsch. These Dmitrjew brothers, because of both their honesty in trading and their amiable behavior, stand out as the best among the peasants with quickly acquired wealth, who, in view of the natural resources of the country and the opportunities offered by the gold washing, and with a little spirit for speculation to get capital quickly, are found quite frequently in Siberia. Their father was still a simple laborer in the forties, until he succeeded, at first, of course, with borrowed money, in taking over some deliveries for the Oljókminsk gold washings and, through that, getting credit and gradually achieving an ever greater expansion of his business. Upon his death, at the end of the sixties, he left his sons a considerable fortune, which in 1875 was estimated at about half a million rubles, but which in any case will grow larger in rapid order, for the brothers have the aim of working their own gold washings, which, with their expert knowledge, will undoubtedly lead to favorable results.

/19 cont./

● 122 Of the five brothers, who all take part in the business, the oldest, Ssemjón Nikíforowitsch, is, as one /20/ would say in Europe, head of the firm, which, however, is not entirely appropriate here, for the Dmitrjews, although steering toward the first company, cling to their peasant class. They are esteemed everywhere in the vicinity (where, incidentally, they are known under the name of Korýtschnew) on account of the propriety of their trading, which unfortunately cannot be said of all the traders of this region. We were already especially indebted to them from the previous year, not only because of the most hospitable reception which we enjoyed in their house, but because of the active co-operation which they gave in outfitting the expedition. We were indebted to them for a handsome boat, provided with large cabins, in which we four members of the expedition found a comfortable place to work and sleep, and which, likewise at their expense, was brought with great trouble from the Lena and over the mountains of the watershed to the Tunguska, as well as frequent supplies of zwieback, dried meat, butter, and the like, altogether around 800 rubles in value. The Imperial Geographical Society in St. Petersburg has not failed to recognize fittingly this great service to one of the expeditions sponsored by it and sent Ssemjón Nikíforowitsch Dmítrjew the certificate of an honorary member of the Society.

We had met Ssemjón Nikíforowitsch before our departure in Irkutsk, where he had come for business reasons, but also principally to enroll his eldest son in the Gymnasium, so that he would receive there the education that he himself, as he greatly regretted, could not acquire because of the conditions described above. In his absence we were received in Banschtschikowa, as has already been said, by his second brother, Wassílij, who, upon the orders of Ssemjón Nikíforowitsch, not only /21/ delivered at very cheap prices all the supplies needed for the expedition, but even took 100 rubles off the total amount.

T /116 cont./
122 of them and would have given a lot to be out of this romantic
133 region as quickly as possible and into the most disconsolate
136 one in the world, the tundra of the far north, beyond the timber
Y line.

● 122 On July 31 we met the Jakuten /Yakut/ Ssemjón, the former
123 traveling companion of our Tungus guide, who was just in the
T process of looking for reindeer that had strayed away. Hailed
Y by his friend Nikolai, he immediately came on board and for
[197] the first time we now heard the sound of the Jakut language,
which certainly did not make a favorable impression on us
after the very melodious sounding Tungus language. Since his
tschum /choom/ and his family were supposed to be only a short
distance farther downstream, we set out again in his company.
Soon he pointed to a willow thicket where his dwelling was sup-
posed to be, and he and Nikolai tried to attract the attention
of the occupants by calls -- but in vain. Even after we had
landed in the vicinity and the Jakute, along with Nikolai, was
sent off to seek the family, their search remained fruitless.
Only a boy, a younger brother of Ssemjón, appeared; the
women seemed to have run away out of fear of us, or at least
it was put this way to us.

Since the place was not suitable for a camp, we went on a
few versts farther and as usual had our tschum put up on the bank
of the river, but several arshins above the water level. It had
been raining for a few hours and we were glad to get under cover,
because the rain was constantly increasing. During the night
/117/ it grew worse and continued, though with interruptions,
throughout the next day. We were thus forced to stay, and
Y Czekanowsky utilized the time to ask the Jakuten /Yakut/ about
[131] the region. It turned out that he lived on the Kónamka, a
river that can hardly be found on any map other than Chitrow's
small one. Nevertheless, it is supposed to be one of the two
main sources of the Anábara, or, as it is called here, the
T Anábar, which is noted on all maps, albeit in very different
823] locations. Nikolai, too, drew various maps of the Olenék and
its tributaries. At first he had also tried to show the location

/117 cont./
of the rivers by means of little sticks, as these people customarily do, but then he decided to take the pencil in his own hand and to draw a map on a fairly large scale, on which Czekanowsky then put the names according to his accounts. /The last paragraph on p. 117, pp. 118-119, and the first paragraph on p. 120 are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text. Page 120 continues as follows./

The region in which we found ourselves was of interest to the Tungus because they were accustomed to get their supply of tea from here. That is, there is found here in great numbers a lady's-slipper (Cypripedium guttatum Sw.), which is very common in southern Siberia, indeed, even along the Tunguska, but along the Olenék, so it seems, is confined to this locality. The leaves of this plant are a good substitute for tea, which I tried on the Tunguska and found very tasty. The natives of Siberia are supposed to know other substitutes for tea as well, especially Sanguisorba and Epilobium, but I myself have seen only the above-mentioned Cypripedium used as such, and I must say that the Tungus use such substitutes only in extreme emergencies, for they even completely reject the brick tea popular everywhere among the people in the south and actually not bad. I am speaking, to be sure, of the Tungus along the Tunguska, who were so spoiled that, in spite of our admonitions, they even threw away the tea from our pot, which had been drawn off only once and therefore was still quite usable even for poorer Europeans.

During our stop at this place the water reached its greatest height and then began to fall again quite rapidly. On the evening of August 5 the rafts were ready and could be loaded, and on the next /121/ morning we were preparing to break camp when suddenly our guide up to here, Nikolai, who earlier had been ready to take us at least as far as the Argáchala, stated that he would go no farther. All threats concerning the isprawnik /ispravnik/, indeed, even the solemn reading of the open letter given to us by the governor general, which was translated by Sseliphon, did not make the slightest impression

T /126 cont./
122 from the bank. From our camp, which was pitched in the
V vicinity, we sent Ssemjón to reconnoiter, and he came back in
[437] the night with two Tungus, who, like the old Jakute, were known to him from before. "I rarely see them," he said laconically. In view of the way of life on both sides that is probably very understandable. Soon it appeared that they had previously had a business connection with regard to a mammoth tusk and, it appeared, not to Ssemjón's advantage. They did not make a good impression in general, and, after buying a reindeer calf, we parted from them as quickly as possible. The people were from Lake Dshesse, but belonged to the Syrungna Tungus.

V
122 On August 11 when we stopped at midday Ssemjón said
123 that we were no longer very far from the Ssiligír, below the mouth of which, on the small river Ssénjka emptying into the Olenék from the left side, Jakuten /Yakut/ were said to be settled. We had at first intended to go directly down to this river, but now learned that the settlement was three days of travel from the Ssénjka mouth, although from here, because of the previously mentioned great bends of the Olenék, was not very far, which was also confirmed by the fact that we found a well-filled storage chamber. So it was decided that Ssemjón was to hurry there and fetch the people, while we went on to the vicinity of the Ssiligír mouth. It proved to be /127/ not very near, however, for we could not reach it until sunset and therefore had to stop above it.

V
[554] The next morning Ssemjón appeared in the company of a
[291] Jakuten /Yakut/, Nikolai Boldonó, whose appearance, though
[437] certainly not magnificent, showed that he was to be counted as one of the wealthier ones. Namely, he had on a cotton shirt and a flowered scarf around his neck, whereas all the other Tungus and Jakuten whom we had seen so far along the Olenék, even the earlier Nikolai, were dressed in leather and skins throughout, a sign that they seldom or never have an opV portunity to come in contact with traders or cannot afford their
[437] prices. Later we learned that the imported dabá (a cotton material usually dyed dark blue) is not too expensive, comparatively

/127 cont./

122 speaking, but so poor that a shirt made of it falls off the body
123 in rags after a few days. To be sure, this is defective goods
[437] from Jakutsk /Yakutsk/ or Wiljuisk /Vilyuisk/, which in this respect is probably the last possible link in the long progression of merchandise that moves from the factories to Nishni-Nowgorod /Nizhni Novgorod/, Irbit, Tomsk, etc., steadily decreasing in quality. A reindeer which we wished to buy was not brought along, because the Jakute /Yakut/ had had a death in his family a few days before and during his attending to the burial the reindeer had gone astray. At least so he said, and he showed absolutely no desire to accompany us. Only when he saw the relatively rich presents in the form of powder, lead, flour, tea, ropes, and the like that Ssemjón received for his services did he decide to come along, at first probably with the intention of soon leaving us again after finding a substitute, whom he hoped to find somewhere in the vicinity.

122 Boldonó is not the only inhabitant of this region; /128/ on
123 the Olenék itself, above the mouth of the Ssiligír, we saw a
[342] tschum /choom/ and a large storage chamber. Its owner,
[343] Gurtschúna, likewise a Jakute /Yakut/, was not present, but
[131] had gone to the Dolgán, who, according to Middendorff's map, are to be found from the mouth of the Anábara to the Jenisseí /Yenisei/ at Dúdino. The son of the schúlinga of this region was also supposed to be staying temporarily in the vicinity of the Ssiligír. And in fact we saw nets hung at the mouth of the Ssénjka, which probably belonged to him, but he was not to be seen, in spite of calls and shots. Ssemjón accompanied us a short distance beyond the Ssiligír, which flows into the Olenék from the right side with two branches at the junction and, after the Argáchala, is probably its most important tributary. Then he took his leave with many thanks and went back to his family, which probably was now willing to be found.

/128 cont./

122 123 Our present guide, although an insignificant little man about 50 years old with a physiognomy by no means intelligent, is a very well-known personality among all -- probably more correctly visitors rather than inhabitants of the upper Olenék -- for the route from the Anábara to the Wiljui /Vilyui/, as well as laterally to the Lena, which is said to be used even by the [443] traders, goes by way of his settlement. Boldonó probably plays on the Olenék the same role of middleman that Uwotschán and our old Golé play on the Tunguska, and neglects his pockets just as little as those two. Unfortunately Golé and Boldonó could not communicate their trade secrets to each other, because the former understood as little of the Jakut /Yakut/ language as the latter did Tungus, and Sseliphón, the interpreter, was too young to be initiated in such important matters, especially since he had enough cunning to spoil Golé's practice after their return.

/129/ We unfortunately had daily examples, often of the most ridiculous kind, of Golé's passion to make deals, even the most petty ones. He gladly took the smallest cigar butts and in general anything that had a name, in the previous year along the Tunguska even fired percussion caps /Pistons/, the uselessness of which he must have become convinced by now after more frequent use of our guns, for he threw them away him- 443] self. Concerning the prices of reindeer, skins, and the like, upon meeting people and after he had duly inquired about them, we could never obtain an account from him, or he gave very high prices, in the hope, in case of a possible trade, of profiting from our ignorance of the Tungus language, even if it were only an extra meal, although he really had no lack of them with us. However often he practiced such deceptions, not always so petty, and was therefore reprimanded, he could not stop it, and in view of his unquestionably very great services for our expedition otherwise, there was nothing to do but to watch him and give him as little opportunity for it as possible.

Y /129 cont./
122 In another respect too the region was livelier. Countless
123 flocks of geese a. gagáren (Colymbus) were startled by us.
136 The former flew up by the hundreds amid a frightful shrieking and
291 beating of wings, while the loud voices of the latter, almost
237 reminiscent of children's cries, resounded continuously through the quiet region. The gagáren, of which there are three species on the Tunguska, but we saw only two of them on the Olenék, taste oily, but are nevertheless eaten by the natives. Caps are sometimes made out of the pretty violet velvet-like down of the neck; indeed, in Turuchansk /Turukhansk/ I even succeeded in buying an overcoat, besides a cap, to be sure for the relatively very high price of 50 rubles, which /130/ were shown great approval everywhere because of their peculiar beauty. Very light and also keeping off the rain very well, this feather coat warmed one excellently, so that I can strongly recommend it, especially for ladies. In Europe where the gagáren also occur, it is said to come on the market occasionally, especially worked into muffs.

Y
122 Beside geese and gágáren, gulls were also common, but
136 only one species, with white neck and head, whereas on the Tunguska we had found several species. We more rarely saw swans, ducks, and cranes, and one bird not present along the Tunguska, called gäscha here, from afar very similar to our common stork, white with black wing tips -- probably it is a
T kind of crane, Grus leucogeranus, of which the cry is also
[825] reminiscent. Smaller birds appeared in noisy flocks, perhaps already proceeding on the homeward journey, and an owl was killed, which, it seems, is rare here, since we had seen only two specimens from the Tunguska on, while there is certainly no lack of other gangs of robbers on the rocks, in particular a
Y kind of falcon called térne by the Tungus.

122 Upon closer acquaintance our guide Boldonó thawed out
123 somewhat and related a little about the region, but obviously not all that he knew by far and, as we learned later, much that was false, deliberately however. Otherwise he was obliging and in particular supplied us daily with fresh fish, which, along with geese, which were now also frequently caught,

/130 cont./
122 provided almost our only food, in view of the lack of reindeer
123 meat. In laying out the nets, Boldonó used his own boat,
which held our attention because it was made out of poplar
114 wood. That is, in Middendorff (1) /131/ there is a note that
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131] along the streams flowing into the Arctic Ocean west of the Olenék there are poplar boats, the material for which comes from the alluvial islands of the Olenék. Now, however, along the Olenék we had come across neither the aromatic poplar (Populus suaveolens Fisch.), which barely reaches the Tunguska (along it only one specimen was known to the population in the vicinity of Podwolótschnaja /Podvoloshnaya/ as a great rarity and this fell as an offering to science in 1873), nor the aspen (Populus tremula L.), which likewise has its arctic boundary much more to the south. To be sure, we heard that the first-named poplar occurs on some tributaries of the Olenék, indeed, even very far to the north, namely on the little Tyrachtán River, which empties into the Nákukyt River, therefore probably about 70° latitude, but it is said to be very rare everywhere and of so little thickness that it cannot be used for any kind of work. Therefore where did those poplar boats come from? Boldonó's boat came from the Lena, brought from there by his father. If Middendorff's statement does not simply rest on an error, he perhaps means the islands at the mouth of the Olenék, where possibly poplar trunks from the more easterly Siberian rivers, but not from the Olenék, might have been deposited by the sea.

1. Sibirische Reise /Siberian Journey/, Vol. IV, Part 1, No. 4, p. 572.

122 On August 17 we saw a young reindeer on the bank and
123 soon afterward a human dwelling. A stop was made, and while I quickly made my magnetic observations, for which I now rarely found time, Boldonó went across the river and after some time appeared in the company of an oldish Jakuten /Yakut/. We had hoped to acquire in him a talkative successor to our all too silent guide, but in vain. Even less could be gotten out of

/131 cont./

122 this one; we could not even buy a reindeer from him. /132/
123 He pretended to be a poor man and to own only five of them, on which he had come here with his family; nevertheless immediately after he left us, we saw 11 fine reindeer, which accompanied us along the bank for a long time. We had already heard about the inhospitality and untrustworthiness of the people along the Olenék; now we could report on it ourselves.

Fortunately on the evening of the next day our attention was again drawn to a human habitation by a column of smoke. Soon after we had landed a little distance from it, a boat came toward us. The occupant of it, perhaps frightened because he saw me lounging on the bank with my gun, approached with his weapon held ready and called to us from a distance. Only when he was addressed in his mother tongue (Jakut /Yakut/) did [186] he put aside the weapon and come to land. He later explained [648] that he had taken us for Tatars, who, according to a legend that he had heard in childhood, were supposed to be great robbers. Boldonó's attempt to whisper something in the ear of the new arrival was fortunately thwarted by Sseliphón, and so he proved to be ready to sell us a reindeer immediately, as well as, after some parleying, to accompany us as a guide on our further travels. Boldonó was kept away from our new guide, named Ignátij, as much as possible by our men, who had also become suspicious of him, and was paid off the next morning, this time certainly not generously and with a few threats on account of his bad conduct. /The last paragraph on p. 132 and pp. 133-134 are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text./

[342] /135/ On the evening of August 19 we again came in sight [231] of a tschum /choom/, as well as a larger herd of reindeer, probably about 50 head. Ignátij explained that this was a Jakute /Yakut/ with whom he was acquainted, Filípp Chologón, with whom in the previous spring he had hunted wild reindeer on the upper Beké, a rich man and formerly a community elder, who also knew the river well, "for he swims around on it like a gagára." In any case it would pay to make his acquaintance. We therefore, since no good landing place was to be found in his vicinity, put in a few versts below and sent Ignátij and

/135 cont./

122 Sseliphón to bring him to us early the next morning. The
123 men returned with the news that he was going to catch a couple of reindeer that we wished to buy and would soon be along. We waited for a long time, and finally he came with two miserable reindeer, for which he wanted an exorbitant price. Also he pretended to know little about the river, since he was familiar with only a rather short stretch of it. In a very bad humor over the useless stop because of him, we dismissed him and left.

The weather was good, and we therefore hoped, although it was already midday, to cover a good stretch before evening, when there appeared an obstacle that lay completely outside all our calculations. The Jakut /Yakut/ guide, who was sitting quietly by the fire and mending his clothing with a needle borrowed from our men, suddenly sprang up, uttered various puzzling sounds, and with difficulty we were finally able to learn that he had swallowed a large needle. In the most extreme mortal terror he vegred about and complained of frightful pains in scarcely understandable words -- how could he be helped? Nothing more was to be seen of the needle in his throat; the butter which we immediately gave him he sputtered out again; it /136/ seemed from his statements that he had probably already swallowed the needle, but in its course it had, of course, severely injured the gullet. He expected death at any moment; in any case he was in a most serious condition, and we could not help him with the best intentions. So it was best to take him back to his people or at least to the nearest Jakuten. We quickly set about putting the sick man in the boat with a few supplies and money -- if not for him, at least for his family -- and our two Tungus took him away.

They returned in the night in the company of the Jakuten /Yakut/ Filípp. The latter, who now appeared as a relative of the sick man, obtained for his vindication a certificate to the effect that he had taken him from us in a very serious condition, gave a few signs with his finger concerning the further journey on the river, and then quickly left us. He wanted to take the sick man, who was still alive when he left, but whose throat was greatly swollen, back to his family if possible and, in

/136 cont./

122 case of death, to take care of the burial, as well as the family
123 and the many herds of reindeer, which, as Ignátij had told us earlier, belonged to a rich Jakuten in the Wiljuisk /Vilyuisk/ area. Whether the poor man saw his people again we have not been able to learn. At the first leavetaking from Filípp he called after him that he was going very far and he was to tell that to his family. He was not thinking of the journey to the other world; he was at that time vigorous and healthy and was happy with us.

We were now again without a guide, provided only with the names of the most important rivers awaiting us and a few suggestions for recognizing them. /The remainder of p. 136, pp. 137-138, and the first paragraph of p. 139 are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text. Page 139 continues as follows./

As our previous guide had told us, we found the Jakuten /Yakut/ Christofór on the Hoppó River. When we saw the smoke from his hut, we cautiously landed at some distance and sent the two Tungus ahead. They learned from his wife that he would soon come. He did in fact appear before us after some time, probably only because fortunately one of the Tungus was still present upon his return. He could not sell us any reindeer at all. In order to serve us as a guide he would have to make a few arrangements at home and went back for that purpose, unfortunately without an escort. When soon afterward we sent Sseliphón after him, he had fled with his wife, "kept his name" (pominaí kak swáli), say the Russians, and we had again had a completely useless delay, for I had long ago completed my observations. There are indeed no human beings here, but rather wild reindeer (wssjo rawnó bujúny), said Golé quite furiously in his broken Russian.

122 Without a guide and, what particularly annoyed us, also
[136] without fresh meat, we had to travel on. In view of our rapid journey, hunting and fishing could provide little, especially since Golé had broken his principal weapon, the trident, on a stone. Only once did we succeed in killing, out of a flock of ten ducks (Anas glocitans, called moklók on the Tunguska),

/139 cont./

122 six of them with four shots. The animals flew up after each
[136] shot and came down again a few steps away, without taking
any notice of the approaching hunters. This fearlessness of
[223] the animals, which is in direct contrast to the timidity of the human beings, is probably to be explained by the fact that the Jakuten /Yakut/ /140/ do not regard it as worth the trouble to squander precious powder on bird game.

Our longing for some change of scenery was finally satisfied on August 29, in that the river, over half a verst wide, made two bends, which in a few hours of travel twice brought
[114] us around almost three-quarters of the wind rose. The topographer who had accompanied us the previous year would have been greatly enchanted by these topographical beauties (he feared that his colleagues in Irkutsk would scarcely believe that the Tunguska made such great bends), but we were certainly not, for the attainment of our journey's end was seriously endangered by these caprices of nature.

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/141/ Seventh Chapter

100 The Jakuten /Yakut/ become more amiable. -- The iron Jegór and his statements. -- Bad weather. -- Northern vegetation. -- Falcon hunt. -- Unreliability of the Jakut statements. -- Beyond the 70th degree of latitude. -- Onset of winter. -- Icebound. -- Concerning the winter quarters. -- Message to Bulún. -- Internal affairs of our household. -- The fauna of the Siberian north. -- Freezing of the river. -- The local reindeer. -- Further travel on foot. -- Help in need. -- The Chatýgin family. -- Sachár O'ssipowitsch Rjeschétnikow. -- A Jakut balagan.

122 On August 30, not far from the little river of Ssukána, we
123 again came in sight of a human habitation and, to be sure, one still inhabited now, as we could see by the reindeer grazing in the vicinity -- we passed old. dilapidated huts several times a day. The call of our Tungus was soon answered. First a man and then a woman came down to the

/141 cont./

122 shore, as he said, a Jakute /Yakut/ from Lake Dshésse, who
123 had married the daughter of the Jakuten /Yakut/ in residence here, Etukjúi, and lived here at the moment, while his father-in-law had undertaken a journey, probably for trade purposes. The people were very friendly and immediately sold a reindeer, although they themselves had few of them, but they could not be of further use to us. Our young host, not being from this place, did not know the region at all and, in fact, seemed to be a little dull-witted, and therefore he would not /142/ do for a guide. Later, however, we discovered that we had been completely deceived by him, that he did come from this region, indeed even held a community office, and consequently would have been obliged to guide us. /The remainder of p. 142 and the first paragraph of p. 143 are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text. Page 143 continues as follows./

On September 3 we crossed the sixty-ninth degree of latitude, not without being delayed once by a very great bend, and toward evening met first the wife of Temír Jegór, mentioned to us long ago, and then, a few versts farther on, the man himself, engaged in fishing. [325] Temír Jegór, that is, the iron Jegór, a very martial-sounding name, which, however, comes from the skill at making ironware, knives, palmás, and the like, commonly found among the Jakuten /Yakut/, was a very vigorous graybeard about 60 years old, as he himself said, and, of all the men whom we had met so far along the Olenék, made by far the best impression. Without long entreaties he gave very detailed statements about the further course of the river up to the mouth, where he himself had been in former times, as well as in Bulún, where the upráwa /uprava/ (government board) was to be found.

/144/ It was especially interesting to us, however, to learn that he had already known about our expedition. According to his assertions, news of it had come to Wiljuisk /Vilyuisk/ at the time of the great fasting, but the inhabitants of the Olenék who had heard about it had fled from us simply out of fear. From our own experiences this account was very creditable, and even

/144 cont./

122 123 the statement concerning the date when the report was received in Wiljuisk agreed with its dispatch. /The remainder of p. 144, p. 145, and the first two paragraphs of p. 146 are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text. Page 146 continues as follows./

On September 7, at the mouth of the very considerable left tributary Ukikít, as Temír Jegór had prophesied, we met his older brother Nikofór, who held the position of a dessjátnik (a community office). While I made magnetic observations in spite of the bad weather, he told Czekanowsky something about the further course of the river, the places where people were to be found, and the like. In general, I must note here, the results of such inquiries are reliable to some extent only when they are made from different persons, completely /147/ independent of one another. All statements about distances are particularly unreliable; the number of days of travel is most indefinite, as we had opportunity to experience often enough. In addition there is the very common deliberate twisting of the truth, especially with reference to the trade routes. Since the Jakuten /Yakut/ settled here on the Olenék are all more or less middlemen between the Russian traders on the Lena and the Wiljui /Vilyui/, on the one hand, and the Dolgan on the Anábara, on the other hand, it is obvious that they do not want to be seen on the maps by strangers whose intentions they do not know. Such a route passing by Temír Jegór's dwelling place led to the Dolgan.

[441] [443] [809]

122 133 On September 7 we passed a second considerable left tributary with an especially wide mouth, the Bírekta, and on the next day the likewise quite large Butt. The tributaries from the right side are insignificant, for here the Lena with those belonging to it already comes too close. Unfortunately we could only supply ourselves with meat from Nikofór; we could not get a guide here either, because his son had gone to look for stray reindeer, which, it seems, is one of the chief occupations of these uncivilized peoples. /The last paragraph on p. 147 and the first two paragraphs on p. 148 are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text. Page 148 continues as follows./

/148 cont./

122 On the same day we met another Jakuten /Yakut/, Christofór,
123 a brother of the one living on the Nákukit. He came to our raft in his boat, after he had first become convinced by a conversation from a distance with Sseliphón that we were real men and not some trick of the devil. He liked being with us, and he /149/ soon offered to accompany us as a guide, at least to the next Jakuten /Yakut/, Ssemjón, on the river Martschimdán, which we gladly accepted, for he knew the region well and moreover was a jolly fellow. On the same evening he went on ahead in his boat to notify Ssemjón, and the next morning we were met by a whole flotilla of boats: Christofór, Ssemjón, and two other Jakuten, each in his boat, which could hardly have carried more than one person anyway. /The remainder of p. 149 and the first two paragraphs of p. 150 are omitted; see the foreign text. Page 150 continues as follows./

122 When on the next morning, as well as during the night, the wind continued to rage, indeed blew stronger and stronger, when we saw how the snow, falling in thick masses since its sudden appearance from the northeast, had already covered the solidly frozen ground in quite wintry dress, indeed, when we noted that the maximum daily temperature no longer reached the freezing point and we, like our /151/ men, only scantily protected from the icy winds, were bitterly cold, then we finally had to acknowledge that the end of our journey by water had come more quickly than we had surmised, still far from our goal. But we could not possibly remain here at this place. There was not enough firewood in the vicinity and even less material to build ourselves, until the opening of the winter route, a hut following the Jakut pattern, a so-called golomó, or even, in case we could not hunt up sufficient means of transport, a so-called ambár, a storage chamber, in order to leave the most unnecessary things in it until later.

122 At least we had to drag ourselves on to the next Jakuten,
123 Stepán, who, summoned by Ssemjón, had already appeared before us. His settlement was only a few versts away on the same bank where we were, but in view of the storm, even with increased pulling power, not attainable, for an island ahead with a sand-choked branch of the river on our side forced us to cross the river in order to reach proper navigable water along the other shore. That was a critical situation.

/151 cont./

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Fortunately the next morning the wind, even though still against us, was considerably weaker. The rafts were quickly loaded and once again we advanced. Exerting all their strength, our men, helped by Ssemjón, succeeded in steering us across to the other shore. There they recovered with food and drink and warmed their frozen limbs, and then, after circumnavigating the island, we again went to the left shore just abandoned, which we reached near the mouth of the little river Hólokit -- here there was a new difficulty caused by a sandbank extending into the river in a wide curve. Czekanowsky and I went ahead on foot, /152/ while the men again laboriously pulled the raft along the shore after going around the sandbank.

A few hundred paces below Stepán's dwelling we found a suitable place for our camp at the edge of the forest. The first night we had to content ourselves with our summer dwelling, but the next day a solider tschum was erected in the style of the one used during the previous winter, but smaller and covered with different materials. Reindeer leather was not to be had here for kind words or money, although the people, according to their own statements, had had successful reindeer hunting and therefore must have had leather. They offered us a covering of fish-skin, which, however, was quite torn, and probably, even in better condition, would have been suitable only for the summer. So we contented ourselves with our tent, out of which, folded double, one wall was made, while the other was put together out of some blankets and the tip covered with my old leather cloak. After the cracks at the bottom were carefully covered with frozen earth and the iron stove was properly heated within, we found ourselves organized quite comfortably and at least protected adequately from the present cold. How it would be later when the mercury froze would have to be seen. Our people likewise built themselves a warm dwelling, which was covered in particular with the birch bark brought with us in some quantity.

Now, first of all, the upráwa /uprava/ in Bulún must be notified of our arrival. Stepán was ready to forward a letter as far as his brother Jegór, who lived a day's journey downstream, on the Koíka, the latter was to hand it on to his nearest neighbor, etc., as far as Bulún. Unfortunately, however, Stepán himself

/152 cont./

122 feared that the letter might be left somewhere on the way, for
123 this /153/ was precisely the time when young and old went reindeer hunting and scarcely anyone was to be found at home. But there was no way out. We had already tried to send Ssemjón directly to Bulun, but without success. He maintained that he needed at least a month to go there (it is six long Jakut /Yakut/ days of travel) and must necessarily take his family along. Obviously he intended to mix business and pleasure, that is, to combine here messenger service with reindeer hunting. In this case we would have to wait two months for help from the upráwa and in the meantime the continuous night would come, which we obviously wanted to avoid, at least as much as possible. On the sixteenth the northeast wind blew so strongly that Stepán could not leave on the trip with his small boat; not until the next day, with the wind still quite strong, did he leave with the letter, which contained a copy of the open order signed by the governor general and the request to the upráwa to supply immediately 10-12 narten /Russ. narta, "sled"/ for the further advance of the expedition. /The remainder of p. 153, pp. 154-156, and the first paragraph of p. 157, except for the last sentence, are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text. Page 157 continues as follows./ That is, we had decided not to wait for the help from Bulún, but to push on, leaving behind part of the supplies and the collections, which could be brought to us later.

Our host, who at first only wanted to give two narten, finally raised this number to five, so that we could at least carry the most vital baggage and provisions, while we ourselves, to be sure, had to go on foot. We wanted to leave on the twenty-ninth, even though the ice was said not to be solid yet, for at first we need not pass by way of the river, but could go along the shore itself or on the shore ice. In the meantime the river froze completely on the twenty-eighth, at least near our camp, after a good freeze, which during the last night reached -19° R.

The packing of our things to be taken along and putting away those to be left behind in our host's storage chamber delayed our departure another day. To compensate for this we had the pleasure on the last evening of receiving the reliable report that our letter to the upráwa had first reached the community elder and was being forwarded by him personally to Bulún.

Y /157 cont./

122 The Jakute /Yakut/ who had received the letter from Stepán's
123 brother and sent it on to the community elder (starschiná) came to look us up himself, undoubtedly with the completely justified /158/ hope of a good tip. His narte too was of great help to us, since our baggage simply could not be accommodated on five narten, and even on six only in an emergency, and therefore Golé fashioned a small hand-sled for himself.

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136 I must note that the reindeer of this region were decidedly
122 smaller and weaker than those that brought us from the Tunguska to the Olenék. The reindeer of the Tschuktschen /Chukchee/ are still smaller, as Middendorff says. We had heard from Baron Maydell and Dr. Neumann, who had been in Tschuktschen country a few years ago, that it is difficult to find reindeer bucks strong enough to carry a man, but this was not confirmed along the Tunguska, for a considerable number of our reindeer could carry Czekanowsky and
Y me with ease, to say nothing of one of the Tungus, who are usu-
[492] ally much smaller and more slightly built. But even here on the Olenék it might be difficult to round up suitable riding animals, and this is probably the chief reason why the people here, as well as in Tschuktschen country, travel almost solely on narten, while
T along the Tunguska they ride almost exclusively.

T
122 On the day of our departure there was still enough to do; Stepán took possession of the well-sealed things remaining behind, then made as many notches on a piece of wood as there were individual packages, pressed two seals on it, and then broke the wood
T together with the seals. Stepán kept one half, and we took the
Y other one with us, and Stepán was supposed to deliver the things
[186] only to the one who showed him this half. Precautionary measures
[685] enough, but we were still somewhat concerned about the safety of the provisions in particular, for Stepán suspiciously spoke a lot about mice, which often steal the supplies, Tungus robbers, /159/ who supposedly break into the chambers, and more of the same. From all these little was to be feared, much more from Stepán and his family themselves, although the latter, during the whole time, had received enough from us and was also generously given presents on the last day. /The remainder of p. 159 and the first paragraph on p. 160 are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text. Page 160 continues as follows./

/160 cont./

●122 The difficulties were almost insurmountable when on the third day, already within sight of our first principal way-station, Jegór's dwelling on the mouth of the Koíka, we had to pass a steep bank at least a verst long, at the foot of which blocks were piled high. Czekanowsky and I went over it very slowly and frequently falling, but without mishap. For the narten, however, a path first had to be made through the blocks of ice. The men worked for hours, until they finally succeeded in getting the narten, one by one, over the difficult place.

From the mouth of the Koíka we again on the third day, October 5, reached the mouth of the Boëntschíma, our second principal way-station, in the vicinity of which lived the messenger advancing toward us, Stepán. In six days we had covered a stretch of only about 60 versts, two Jakut /Yakut/ days of travel, and moreover in very favorable weather, but that could change at any moment, for since the fourth a wind, up to now still moderate, had come up, along with snow, sometimes from the southwest, sometimes from the northwest. It was clear that we could not travel very far in this fashion, especially considering the provisions. Happily help was near.

122 Our tschum was not yet ready at the mouth of the
123 Boëntschíma when a narte appeared on the ice downstream and quickly reached us. It was a Wiljuisk /Vilyuisk/ /161/ Tungus, Jegór, who at the moment lived at the Tolóbka mouth, about 30 versts from here. He had to do some business with Stepán, so he said, and went on to see him, his dwelling lying somewhat inland from the mouth of the Boëntschíma. He soon came back, however, to set out for home again and now told us that the community elder was expected back the next day, but he himself would come to meet us with reindeer. Immediately the next morning we noticed that Stepán had probably received instructions concerning us, for he appeared early with good narten and reindeer, which had to be changed here, for the ones up to now were hired only to here or at most to the Tolóbka.

As usual, Czekanowsky and I did not wait for the harnessing and packing up, but went on ahead, not far this time. We

/161 cont./

122 123 had scarcely covered three versts when Jegór advanced toward us, along with an escort and eight fine reindeer. He had obviously, judging by the distances covered by him, slept little, if at all, during the night. Soon our men followed; since the earlier narten and their drivers had come along, a narte could be hitched up for each of us, and we went on at a fast trot, despite the still difficult road. It was noticed that the people here are accustomed to driving, whereas in the previous winter along the Tunguska it was tried for the first time.

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A few versts farther the community elder, Peter Chatýgin, and another Jakute /Yakut/, Matféj Chatýgin, advanced toward us with four narten. Peter Chatýgin, alias Atschkássow, also called Morósow, a still young, handsome, strong, and tall man, made a most favorable impression from the first. He is probably the richest and most esteemed man of this region, /162/ and the office of elder has been handed down in his family already into the third generation. He had taken our letter to Ssiktjách /Siktyakh/ on the Lena, 180 (?) versts above Bulún, and sent it on from there. A merchant settled there -- the Jakuten called him Rjétschnikow -- told him that he must do everything in his power for the expedition, and all the more so since instructions could not be expected from Bulún very quickly, because the head (golowá) of the upráwa was not present at the moment, but had gone to the mouth of the Lena.

As a result Peter Chatýgin offered to take us to the Arctic Ocean himself, with his own reindeer, which, of course, we accepted with joy. Only one circumstance disturbed this joy -- we had to give up following the course of the river, for here in its lower course too it continued to have the same character which had almost brought us to despair throughout the journey, namely, going toward its goal in the most winding way possible. On the river itself it is supposed to be 17 hard days of travel to its mouth, and moreover through a completely unpopulated region, whereas the elder undertook to get us there in about eight days. There was no choice, for if we were still to venture to hope for some results in these northern regions, especially Czekanowsky with regard to the geology, we must

/162 cont./

122 get there as soon as possible. The survey of the course of the
123 river must be given up; I might perhaps still succeed in determining astronomically the position of a few points on the main river or on its tributaries and through that gain facts for the map being drawn up according to the statements of the natives.

122 On this day we reached the dwelling of Matféj Chatýgin, already somewhat below the mouth of the Tolóbka, /163/ and decided to accompany the community elder the next day to his temporary camping place on the Kútingna, a right tributary of the Olenék, where he still had to make some preparations for the further journey. After I had succeeded in determining astronomically this end-point of the methodical survey of the Olenék, for the sky had unexpectedly cleared in the evening, we continued our journey the next morning, October 7, at first a few versts along the shore of the Olenék up to the mouth of the Kútingna, then a stretch on it, and, after that, on the shortest route over mountain and valley to the dwelling of the elder.

We were no longer far from it when the guide said that just then the merchant from Ssiktjách, whom he knew, was passing by here and was spending the night in a nearby balagan. We, of course, immediately detoured from our route in order, after so many months, to come in contact once again with an at least halfway civilized person and were overjoyed to recognize in him a man about whom we had already heard, namely, Sachár O'ssipowitsch Rjeschétnikow, who, as a Cossack noncommissioned officer, had gone along on the Tschuktschen /Chukchee/ expedition of Baron Maydell and Dr. Neumann, had then advanced with the intercession of these gentlemen, and had been transferred here, where he now occupied himself with trade and was just undertaking a trip for this purpose to the Anábara and the Popigaí. With a knowledge of the Siberian north such as few have, because of his many years of travel, he could give us various bits of good advice concerning the route that we were to take, one stretch of which coincided with his.

/163 cont./

● 122 In particular he urged haste, for with the disappearance of the sun at the /164/ beginning of November the most frightful snowstorms customarily set in, which are very dangerous, especially on the tundra.

Unfortunately we did not have much time to converse with him, because night had already fallen and we still had a good stretch to cover to the balagan of the elder. Sachár O'ssipowitsch made us a gift of some fresh white and rye bread and a magnificent fish (néljma), a delicacy missing for a long time; we then left him, after he had most cordially invited us to stay at his house in Ssiktjách upon our return trip, even in his absence.

In the balagan of the elder we were greeted by his wife and given the best places, next to the fire, and the elder could not be talked out of showing us and our men hospitality with fat reindeer meat and frozen milk. The people here obviously had a better way of life than our Tungus friends along the Tunguska, who were certainly not poor.

342 For the first time we found ourselves in a Jakut /Yakut/ balagan and had to admit that in severe cold it was much to be [333] preferred to our light tschum /choom/. Such a balagan, or [335] yurt, also called stan when it is used as a station at the same time, and powárnja, that is, kitchen, by some travelers, is a rectangular hut with garret-shaped, sloping side-walls and a flat roof, made out of tree trunks, which are plastered with clay on the outside and are thickly covered with snow in the winter. Any cracks are carefully plugged up with moss from the inside. [354] The windows consist of thick sheets of ice; in the middle [352] stands a Jakut fireplace (kamelók), likewise made out of clay-plastered logs and around this are a number of sleeping places, that is, simple wooden chests without bottoms, which are filled with stamped-down earth /165/ and therefore provide neither a soft bed nor, since they extend directly to the outer [362] wall, a warm one; there are usually six of them. To be sure, [122] such a balagan still leaves much to be desired; in particular the fireplace usually stands too far from the sleeping places and during the night frightful cold comes in through the wide,

/165 cont./

342 not always closable chimney, if it is not heated--nevertheless [362] we were pleased by the news that on our journey, especially on [122] the return trip, we would for the most part reach balagans for [123] spending the night, and only now, on the first two days of travel and then on the tundra, must content ourselves with the tschum, for which, incidentally, we obtained as a loan from our host a fine leather covering. /The remainder of the chapter, pp. 165-166, is omitted in the translation; see the foreign text./

/167/ Eighth Chapter

Travel by narten. -- The timber line. -- The parallel of the North Cape. -- The settlement of Kuladý on the Pur. -- Wolves. -- Preparations for the tundra journey. -- Popular lectures for Jakuten /Yakut/. -- Patriarchal customs. -- Purga. -- The village of Boljkalák or Ustj-Olénskoje. -- Festive reception. -- Geological data. -- Within sight of the Arctic Ocean. -- Canine concert. -- The illustrious dead of the Olenék. -- Fishing and hunting. -- Well-being of the natives. -- Exchange of gifts. -- Off for home! -- Departure from the Olenék. -- Reception in Ssiktjach.

/The remainder of p. 167, pp. 168-171, and the first paragraph of p. 172 are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text. Page 172 continues as follows./

122 Thus our trip was assured and all that remained was to provide for new, sounder narten /Russ. narta, "sled"/; these were finished in the next two days, the ones for Czekanowsky and myself even being fitted with leather kibitkas. Meanwhile we were profoundly bored during our wait of over four days. Czekanowsky had some trees cut down, measured them, and counted the annual rings. I had long finished with my magnetic and astronomical observations, having positively wrested the latter from the unfavorable weather. Thus there was nothing to do but chat with the Jakuten through the interpreter, particularly with the elder, who had caught cold traveling back and forth and therefore was now confined to his room, or rather to the yurt.

Y /172 cont./

122 I brought out my magnetic bars and angled with them, as
123 well as with my pocketknife magnetized on them, for needles scattered on the table, to the great delight of those present, which was made known with an abundance of extraordinary interjections, in which these primitive peoples /173/ are able to accomplish a great deal. The fact that they could not do the same thing with their own knives, made of soft iron, no matter how much I touched them with my amazing bars, seemed particularly miraculous to them. Czekanowsky decided that if he ever traveled through these regions again he would provide himself with various magnetic playthings for barter.

The compass caused almost even greater astonishment when
Y they discovered that with this instrument one could find one's
821 way in the tundra even during a snow storm. Their knowledge of astronomy does not seem to be very great; as far as was to be understood through the interpreter, the elder knew only the Great Bear, about which he maintained that "it moves its tail," but, with clear skies, experienced tundra guides are said to be able to orient themselves by the stars.

Y The statements of the elder completely confirmed all the
571 praise that Chitrow bestowed on the inhabitants of these regions.
Y Their love of their fellow men is positively unheard of and re-
736 minds one of patriarchal times and conditions. Not only do the
431 rich never abandon their poorer fellow tribesmen in case of need,
T they feed and clothe them, and if, as often happens, the rein-
736 deer fall prey to wolves, they replace the loss for the ones robbed --
431 Chitrow says that a Tungus of his acquaintance was supported in
224 this way for three successive years and that such support may amount to 30 reindeer, a sizable fortune here -- there even prevails a custom whereby the hunting booty, especially slain reindeer, is shared among all the companions or family members; the pelt is given to each member in turn -- with the exception of the fortunate hunter, who fears losing his talent for hunting if he violates this custom held sacred by the fathers.

000 The two /174/ Tungus accompanying us made peculiar faces at

The two Tungus accompanying us made
T /174 cont./ peculiar faces at
123 this story, for such is not known in their country. They evidently considered these people terrible liars, or, if everything that they
T said were actually true, great blockheads.
Y
177 In still another respect we found Chitrow's statements confirmed. That is, he names as inhabitants of the Shigansk /Zhigansk/ district, and especially of the lower Olenék, Russians, Tungus, and Jakuten /Yakut/ and observes that the first two have been completely Jakutized, not only in clothing and customs, but also in language. So far we had met only one Tungus, who, however, actually belonged to the Wiljuisk /Vilyuisk/ district -- to be sure, he was so completely Jakutized that he no longer even understood Tungus; all the other people whom we met called themselves Jakuten. Now we learned from the elder that even his family, Chatýgin, which is now considered a true Jakut one, was originally a Tungus one, but has been Jakutized for several generations.

Y
• 122 On the morning of October 18 we could finally set out on our journey, unfortunately in very bad weather, for a violent southwest wind blew and at any moment the sky threatened snow, which had also fallen abundantly the day before, but we could
Y
[132] not wait any longer. We had scarcely passed the timber line about ten versts from our balagan when the wind thoroughly shook us; also it began to snow again, the purga, the snowstorm, was ready to start -- still not a wholly genuine one, to be sure. The true purga only begins, as is said here, in the black months, that is, when the sun no longer comes up. When sky and earth are no longer to be distinguished in the chaos of whirling particles of ice, when the raging storm itself is able to blow down lighter buildings, then even one of the natives rarely ventures /175/ out into the dreadful snow-wilderness threatening destruction. Today it was still bearable, especially for Czekanowsky and me, protected by our kibitkas and only sprinkled with powderings of snow on occasional windings of the route. On this day, on account of the bad weather, we covered a distance somewhat shorter than our guide had intended, but still 50-60 versts, and had to wait almost two hours until the men had put up our tschum in a river valley somewhat protected from the wind.

/175 cont./

137 The timber line now passed by us lies at 71 1/2° latitude. It is not fixed very precisely, for individual streaks of forest extend tonguelike into the tundra, and here and there one finds smaller or larger islands of forest, so that here the transition from forest to tundra, in contrast to what we saw earlier, was a very gradual one. Lone before our last camp it was noticed that the forest was becoming steadily poorer and more stunted, and from there the signs
●122 of its imminent cessation multiplied. On the next day we crossed the watershed between the Pur and the Boljkalák, the last large tributary of the Olenék. Since it was no longer snowing we advanced quite rapidly, but when it became dark we had still not reached by far our camping place designated for tonight by the guide, but rather only a very small hut in the middle of the tundra, which we used to revive ourselves somewhat. Then we continued our journey in the darkness and finally reached a small, but cozily warm balagan on the little river Molokó, which empties into the Boljkalák. On the next day we followed the course of this little river and then the Boljkalák itself, but our /176/ guide, in shortening the route by cutting off the bends, multiplied its difficulties and in crossing the steep sides of the bank our narten, and we with them, frequently took a fall. Otherwise Czekanowsky
[133] was very satisfied. The rocks here decidedly no longer belonged
[134] to the Silurian formation which had become so very boring to us, for coal appeared, but unfortunately no petrifactions.

122 In the evening--it was October 20, that is, exactly four
123 months since we had reached the river system of the Olenék at
621 the Ljútscha Ongókton -- we found ourselves at the goal of our long journey, at the little village of Boljkalák lying at the mouth of the Boljkalák into the Olenék, officially Ustj-Olénskoje, i.e., mouth village of the Olenék, and stopped in front of the stately balagan of the local elder, which had been assigned to us for a
[574] dwelling. Informed previously about our imminent arrival, the entire male population -- it was an imposing crowd; we at least had not seen so many people together for a long time, but in all only seven families are said to live here -- stood ready to welcome us and greeted us with low bows as we climbed out, while upon entering the balagan we were received by the ladies of the house.

/176 cont./

entering the balagan we were received by the ladies of the house. They had, of course, put on their most beautiful finery; we were struck in particular by the very large silver earrings, which, by the way, are also fashionable among the wealthy Tungus women along the Tunguska and are also acquired there from the Jakuten /Yakut/. After the strenuous tundra trip we made ourselves comfortable at the roaring fire of the fireplace, heartily glad that from here we could, with a good conscience, turn back toward the south, toward home. We had hoped to be here two months earlier -- the reader has learned with what /177/ great difficulties we had made it possible to be here now. /The remainder of p. 177, pp. 178-180, and the first paragraph of p. 181 are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text. Page 181 continues as follows./

Of the living scientists only one had come farther than we on the mainland of Asia -- indeed, by almost three degrees of latitude -- Middendorff at the mouth of the Taimyr. We also did not forget the dead -- the intrepid mariners, Charitón Láptew /Laptev/, Prónstschischtschew /Prontschischev/, Tscheljúskin /Chelyuskin/, and others who had trod this ground almost a century and a half before us undertook from here their daring journeys to explore the coasts of the Arctic Ocean and for the most part also paid here for their zeal with their lives. All our searchings for their graves, for remains of their dwellings, were in vain. On the rocks which Czekanowsky climbed there were in several places remains of old dwelling sites -- whether of theirs remained doubtful. Every tradition of that noble expedition paid for with such tremendous sacrifices /182/has been lost among the inhabitants (1). At that time Russian peasants probably lived

1. So it in fact appeared to us, but in the following year Czekanowsky found the inhabitants of Boljkalák much more communicative. They showed him the graves of Prónstschischtschew and his courageous wife, who had followed him into this desolate place. On the last rock on the right shore of the

/185 cont./

233 that had brought us here were led a few versts farther to the right
[182] shore of the Olenék, where there was more food for them. Lack of fodder for the reindeer is the principal reason why the inhabitants here do not keep them as draft animals, but instead use dogs, which, because of the great quantity of fish food that they need, are very troublesome, particularly in years when fish are not abundant. Our host here has a /186/ splendid herd of reindeer, which, however, he keeps with friends in the forest region; aside from the lack of food, the wolves, for which we too had to keep a nightly watch during the trip on the tundra, and in the winter the violent snowstorms, are a danger to the reindeer.

123 During our stay we received many presents of fish and arctic fox skins -- probably not the best, inasmuch as it was seen that we were not experts -- indeed, even garments that were no longer new, which, however, we refused. The people were generously compensated for this with tobacco, tea, sugar, ammunition, axes, and similar articles, in spite of their protests that they did not
431 expect anything at all in return. The custom of giving and re-
571 ceiving presents during visits is widespread everywhere here, and while it is possible that those in higher positions, especially the local administrative officials, do not count on any return gifts, those of the same standing not only desire, but demand them, and it even happens, as Chitrow tells, that such mutual assurances of esteem end in lawsuits because one party is dissatisfied.

● 122 On the morning of October 23 our narten stood before the door ready for travel -- nothing held us in the north any longer; we left the village at a rapid trot, accompanied for a stretch by the population running alongside. We were going south, following the birds of passage that had hastened on ahead of us long ago -- they had reached their goal long since, but we were still far away, frightfully far! Our stations were the same as before up to the Pur; we traveled as quickly as possible, since nothing held
[137] us any longer. Czekanowsky only took along a couple of trunks from stunted larches, which were growing in the middle of the tundra in the protection of river valleys; the largest was as thick as an arm and barely ten feet tall, but of a considerable age.

/186 cont./

122 Besides these stunted /187/ trunks, however, roots of great forest
(137) trees were found here and there in the ground far beyond the present timber line. A few such roots were pointed out to us; they show that the timber line is receding.

On the Pur this time we were assigned a very fine balagan in Kuladý for a dwelling, in which we rested for a day from the exhausting trip across the tundra. On this occasion I must say
621 something about the inhabited places here. Boljkalák, like a
361 number of settlements on the Lena which we succeeded in seeing later, can properly be designated as a village. If it does not wholly correspond to our conceptions of such, nevertheless at least a few huts stand together, more than one family lives there, and the inhabitants themselves appear to be more prosperous. On the other hand, all the other places that we encountered on our journey are to be compared with, say, the Latvian workers in Livonia (scattered farmsteads) -- the Russian designation here for this is urótschischtsche. On quite a large area, which is customarily named after a little river, a few balagans lie scattered in the forest, often versts apart, and here, too, in Kuladý. Even the balagan about five versts away in which we had previously stayed not far from the Pur was, it seems, counted as belonging to Kuladý. /The last paragraph of p. 187, p. 188, and the first paragraph of p. 189 are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text. Page 189 continues as follows./

122 On the evening of November 1, we finally arrived safe and
123 sound in the village of Ssiktjách /Siktyakh/ on the Lena, where we found the friendliest reception in the house of Rjeschétnikow. Having been informed of our imminent arrival by the Cossack long before, Mrs. Rjeschétnikow had put in order for us her only two rooms. The building consisted essentially of a Jakut /Yakut/ yurt, but was much larger than those offered to us before, on which two small rooms had been built; in one of the latter there was a Russian stove, which opened up the agreeable prospect of
241 freshly baked bread. We were entertained not only with that, and
122 with fine cakes, fish, and the like; Mrs. Rjeschétnikow daily
123 showed us hospitality with splendid potatoes which she had grown

/189 cont./

122 here in Ssiktjách. Besides potatoes she also raises turnips, radishes,
123 and cabbage, but the latter no longer sets heads. In Preobrashén-
241 skoje /Preobrazhenskoye/, the last place on the Tunguska where vegetables are grown, Mrs. Akúlow also complained about this. Preobrashénskoje, however, lies at the 60th degree of latitude, Ssiktjách at the 70th. The Ssiktjách potatoes were not at all inferior to those of Preobrashénskoje and were considerably larger than those from Turuchansk /Turukhansk/ that we had obtained the previous year, which may be due in part to the variety, for in Turuchansk we found round potatoes, in Ssiktjach longish ones,
[223] up to two inches long. Mrs. Rjeschétnikow also keeps some chickens, but complained that she gets only a few eggs from them; in part this may be due to the way the poor animals live -- they are kept in a dark cage under the stove and at most are permitted to walk about the room; even in summer they cannot
/190/ go out in the open because of the many dogs, which are used here as draft animals, especially for hauling wood.

122 Unfortunately, here in Ssiktjach, just like the year before in
123 Jenisseisk /Yeniseisk/, we had to undergo the experience that the first entrance into a warm room after a long and difficult journey is not beneficial to one's health. For several days we felt listless and suffered from headaches, and I from a swollen cheek as well, which scarcely made it possible for me to give Mrs. Rjeschétnikow's cooking the attention it deserved.

And yet what great charm lay in this return from the wilderness! Even though Ssiktjách was such a remote outpost of culture and for a civilized European a wretched hole, how many long-missed enjoyments it offered us. Only someone who has been in this position himself can appreciate the pleasure that we felt when for the first time we undressed once again in a warm room, made our toilet at our ease in European fashion, and then put on the clean finer clothing that had been lying unused in our suitcases for almost a year. Perhaps a cadet who puts on the trim officer's uniform for the first time experiences something similar. How I had longed to be able to put my legs under a table again, for eating and writing on one's knees or at best on

122 /190 cont./
123 a low box, usually in a half-reclining or crouching position, is very
[352] tiring after any length of time. In the yurts of our hospitable Jakut /Yakut/ friends we had occasionally found miniature tables from one to two feet high, which were placed beside the sleeping places, but here in Ssiktjach for the first time we again sat on chairs at a table covered with a clean cloth.

/191/ Ninth Chapter

100 The Jakut /Yakut/ dignitaries. -- We exchange gifts. -- Narten of persons of rank. -- Northward again! -- Kūssūr. -- The upráwa /uprava/ of the Shigansker Ulússes /Zhigansk ulus/. -- The clergyman from Bulún. -- The ivory trade. -- The population. -- Prohibition against liquor. -- Unselfishness of the upráwa. -- At the Arctic Ocean again. -- The Jakut stan. -- Astronomical observations with the mercury frozen. -- Dshejelák-Dshaná. -- Animal husbandry in the far north. -- The northern part of the Werchojansk /Verkhoyansk/ district.

122 During our stay in Ssiktjách /Siktyakh/, the notables of the
[123] entire district one by one honored us with their visits -- various
[554] elders in the uniform described above, and finally a former
[292] golowá of the entire ulússes /ulus/, a dignified old man in a much more elaborate uniform than the others. His belt consisted of a broad gold braid and on it hung two swords, one an emblem of his office, the other, with pretty silver decoration on the hilt, a gift of honor from the government. We now conferred with these dignitaries about our further journey. Upon our arrival we had planned to move on, after a short rest, in a southerly direction, if possible, following the course of the Lena, directly to Jakutsk /Yakutsk/, or, if this could not be done, to travel to Wiljuisk /Vilyuisk/, and had even entertained the bold idea of skirting Jakutsk in the latter case and hastening via Oljókminsk /Olekminsk/ as quickly as possible toward the longed-for south. At first we /192/ did not at all believe the assertions of our advisors that the execution of these travel plans

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122 simply could not be accomplished in this season of the year, since a completely uninhabited stretch of land several hundred versts wide lies between Ssiktjach and the southern districts, which one can cross only if the necessary reindeer are distributed at various intermediate stations, but several weeks would be required for that. It was said that even the Bishop of Jakutsk on his last sojourn in the north, after a few days of travel which he made on this direct route, had been obliged to turn back and take the customary route via Bulún and Werchojansk /Verkhoyansk/.

[132] It is understandable that we resisted as much as possible further traveling in a northerly direction. With the exception of a few hours on the afternoon of November 2 the mercury remained frozen continually, the cold increased to -37° R., and with such a temperature, which, quite apart from the darkness -- for soon the sun would disappear for a few months -- would, of course, prevent almost any observations, however hasty, we were supposed to go out again into the tundra, in the vicinity of the Arctic Ocean, whose terrible snowstorms we had hoped to escape forever. It had to be done, however, and after long hesitation we finally agreed that preparations for our passage along the route to Bulún and Werchojansk should be made, for though there are no settlements there for hundreds of versts, at least comfortable yurts for travelers exist there, and the inhabitants of the surrounding populated tracts of land are equipped to send on the post or one of the officials of this inhospitable district from time to time.

/193/ The few days of our stay in Ssiktjach passed quickly enough with the preparation of our baggage for the further journey. While we packed our collections as well as we could so that they might withstand all the perils of the enormously long journey, we tried to get rid of the other effects insofar as
123 they seemed to us in any way dispensable. There were only a
122 few things, such as shovels, axes, pickaxes, and the like, that Czekanowsky gave to our guide Atschkássow to store in case of his possible return the next year; many other things, such as our

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122 iron stove, which we should no longer need in the yurts, as well
123 as our supplies and kitchen utensils, we presented to our friendly hostess, who could make good use of them. She also wanted to keep our dog Waltusch, but we could not bear to leave our faithful companion on two such difficult expeditions here in this climate obviously unfavorable to him and carried out our resolve to take him back to Irkutsk to his well-earned rest. He is now living out the rest of his days in quiet contemplation with a butcher there. According to the custom of the country, Mrs. Rjeschétnikow insisted on giving us a present in return and provided us with some fine fish for the trip. In addition, Czekanowsky received a Russian-style fur cap, the crown of which was made of dark fox
[291] paws and the brim of river beaver. I was given a Jakut /Yakut/ fur hood, likewise of fox paws and lined with squirrel skins, and a pair of huge mittens of the same kind of fur, beautifully embroidered at the wrists and provided with an opening through which
[171] one could put out one's hand without taking off the mitten. This extremely practical mitten is found /194/ throughout northern Siberia and is to be recommended to European soldiers and hunters.

493 During the cold season persons of rank here travel in com-
[484] pletely covered narten /Russ. narta, "sled"/, into which one crawls
[554] from the front and then, wrapped in soft and warm skins and covers, sleeps through the entire journey. They are so low that sitting up is impossible, and, of course, it is equally impossible to see anything of the region through which one passes -- reason enough for us to forgo this comfort and be content with our narten used up to now, equipped only with a kibitka.

122 On the afternoon of November 5 we took cordial leave of Mrs.
[132] Rjeschétnikow and drove off in a northerly direction, with a temperature of about -33° R., which during the night even dropped to -38° R. On the way we visited the family of our guide Atschkássow, with whom we exchanged a few presents, and on the evening of the following day reached some yurts which bear the name Küssür /Kyusyur/ and lie on the right shore of the river, diagonally across from the larger village of Bulún, the chief place on the lower Lena. We chose to stop here because our

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route led toward the east again, and we therefore would have had to cross the Lena twice, the width of which scarcely exceeded two versts at this point -- it would have been no easy task, because the ice cover consisted entirely of torössen (mountains of blocks of ice pushed together), so that on the earlier journey we had avoided the river itself as much as possible. The Jakuten /Yakut/, by the way, have extraordinary skill in driving the narten; in spite of the route, frightful in places, I do not remember ever having an accident when a Jakute was driving for me, while with our Tungus an accident /195/ was inevitably connected with every spot that was even only moderately bad. -- In Küssür we found an excellent yurt consisting of several rooms and even equipped with a Russian stove, which belonged to the Ustjjansk /Ust-Yansk/ merchant, M. J. Ssánnikow. He annually brings his supply of mammoth tusks to Jakutsk /Yakutsk/, from where he brings his wares here by water in the fall and then returns to Ustjjansk with the opening of sled travel.

Scarcely had the news of our arrival spread in Bulún when more dignitaries came to visit. The secretary of the upráwa /uprava/ arrived; he had already greeted us in Ssiktjach and then returned here to wait for the golowá and to ask him for further assistance for us. His position here is certainly very difficult, because he does not understand a word of the Jakut language, while the golowá and the other elders do not understand any Russian; for the time being a former merchant who spoke both languages was helping him. The secretary brought us an official document, which, he said, referred to our expedition -- this was not the case, however; it contained orders to the effect that if the Austrian expedition under Payer and Weyprecht should reach here, they were to be shown every hospitality and helped to go on. There were absolutely no orders concerning us, but we, of course, guarded against revealing this and let the secretary believe that ours was the expedition in question. Obviously here again it was negligence on the part of the Werchojansk /Verkhoyansk/ isprawnik /ispravnik/, who had not sent the orders of the governor general here. Soon the present golowá was announced, an impressive

/195 cont./

● 122 man who had just returned from the Arctic Ocean. Most of the visitors appeared with gifts, of which, however, we accepted only just what we needed, for /196/ appropriate compensation, of course. One of the visitors brought a reindeer and received for it generous payment in cash, which he apparently had not counted on, for he became very embarrassed and finally explained that in this case he wished to exchange the animal given for a larger and fatter one, which, of course we could not oppose.

On the day after our arrival the clergyman from Bulún, Nikolai Ssljepzów, also visited us, and we spent a very pleasant evening with him. He told us a great deal about his travel adventures on the tundra, which he frequently had to cross. The dangers for the intrepid traveler are great -- not the least is the danger of getting lost. Once, just when his traveling companion had gone off, the clergyman was suddenly thrown out of the narte by the dogs, suddenly excited at the sight of a wolf, and he was saved only by the intelligence of the lead-dog who forced the rest of the team to circle the place of the accident closer and closer until he had again found his master and brought the dogs to a standstill near him. He would have been hopelessly lost, without any food, without a compass, hundreds of versts from any settlement. Our guest was also able to give some much desired information about the natural products of the parts of the country traversed by him, and Czekanowsky was particularly pleased by the accounts concerning several sources of petrifactions along the [136] Lena and the shore of the Arctic Ocean; the clergyman even claimed to have frequently seen ammonites, which we could show him in illustrations. Encouraged by us, he promised henceforth to collect natural products himself, as much as he could, for which we gave him a short course of instruction and asked him to send his eventual collection to the Siberian Section of /197/ the Imperial Geographical Society in Irkutsk. On the next day he sent us a young shark which he himself had caught near Bulún, that is, in the river.

632 Bulún, as I have said several times, is at present the capital
[103] of an entire district, or, as one says here, ulússes /ulus/, which, however, is still named after the former capital Shigánsk / Zhigansk/.
[226] On the maps the latter is even designated as a town, but it is now
[439] practically abandoned. Bulún, which lies only about 120 versts

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273 supervised, is simply not in a position to carry out this measure
273 with great strictness. On the Jenissei in particular, where trade is
437 much brisker than on the Lena, great quantities of liquor are sold
441 to the indigenous tribes by the merchants; the officials, even if they actually desired to resist bribery by the traders, are only rarely in a position to stop the mischief, for even though they now and then seize a shipment of liquor, they are usually obliged to hand it over again to the owner, who insists that it is needed for himself and his own workers. The thirst of a Russian, even though it may be colossal -- the climate also brings this about -- cannot very well /199/ be lawfully curtailed if it does not lead to excess. It is certain that the Russian government does at least as much as any other government in similar circumstances -- particularly the North American and English ones -- to acquaint the original inhabitants with the good aspects of civilization and to keep the corrupting ones away from them, but profit is as dear to the Russian merchants as to the foreign ones, and liquor, as is well known, is the favorite article of trade and the most profitable one for the traders everywhere.

122 Before our departure the leaders of the district assembled
123 here gave us a demonstration of their unselfishness which cannot be appreciated enough. Our guide Atschkássow had already definitely refused to accept any kind of remuneration for the service performed for us and for the large number of reindeer that had been used for our transport for weeks; when we now began to speak of remuneration here, the golowá told us that the upráwa had unanimously decided to transport us to the border of the ulússes without any recompense whatever. At our request this decision was put in writing by the secretary and signed by all the members of the upráwa, which was done by an impression of their seals, to which the secretary added the corresponding names. These quasi coats-of-arms, any symbol, a flower, an animal, and the like, blackened with soot, were pressed on paper. We did not fail to present this official document later to the isprawnik /ispravnik/ of the Werchojansk /Verkhoyansk/ district, to which the Shigansker uluss /Zhigansk ulus/ belongs, as well as to the

/199 cont./

122 governor of Jakutsk /Yakutsk/, who immediately agreed to thank
123 the honest Jakuten /Yakut/ personnally for the help given us. To our great pleasure, our old friend /200/ Atschkássow was assigned to us as courier for the journey as far as the border of the ulússes, and he willingly accepted this decision of his colleagues, although we had already laid claim to his services for such a long time.

We were glad to be able to show our appreciation in some measure at least for the great services rendered to us here by leaving for our friendly hosts the rather considerable remainder of our powder, an article always greatly prized here, but now regarded as especially precious because the annual government shipment of powder had failed to appear this year. Atschkássow, of course, was as richly rewarded as our means allowed. My powder horn, which I believed to be no longer necessary in the continuously prevailing temperature of 30-40° R. below zero, delighted him greatly, and even more a Chinese cap which I had bought in one of the many Chinese stores in Irkutsk. The latter, to be sure, was so unique that it would have attracted attention even in Europe; that is, it consisted of two half-circles of fine brown felt lying one inside the other, which, upon being pulled apart, formed a hollow, egg-shaped body on which one could not detect the tiniest seam. I have been told that these caps, very cheap incidentally -- mine cost one ruble 20 kopecks in Irkutsk -- were made by pressing the mass of felt on a form of ice, which later melts. Any other way of making them is indeed inconceivable.

122 On the morning of November 8, we set out again in a
133 temperature of -35° R. The sun was no longer rising for us on
[32] that day, but for a long time the southern sky glowed with the most beautiful colors. First we went up the valley of the little river Ebetén, which empties into the Lena not far from Küssür and distinguishes itself unfavorably because of much Aufeis /surface ice/. One /201/ recognizes this by the blue or green color and avoids it whenever possible, for often, under a relatively thin covering of ice, one encounters large hollow spaces or even flowing

/201 cont./

122 water, the latter of which, even though not deep enough to en-
133 danger the traveler himself, can, because of the intense cold, be a hindrance to the reindeer and, in addition, covers the runners with a crust as hard as stone, which makes progress very difficult. As it is, in intense cold, the runners must be freed of the clinging ice every day before setting out. The Ebetén comes out of the Chara-ulách Range, which, forming a branch of the Werchojánsk /Verkhoyansk/ Range, runs a long way along the right bank of the Lena. From Ssiktjách on we had admired its
[137] picturesque forms along the other shore of the river. Moving up the valley of the Ebetén, we soon found ourselves on the tundra again; only in very sheltered places did we now and again see a few larch trunks. Probably only the high altitude has robbed this region of forest growth, but this mountain tundra, just like that along the shore of the Olenék, changes directly into the sea tundra.

122 We spent the night in a balagan that was still in the Ebetén valley and on the evening of the next day, after climbing over a low pass in the Chara-ulách Range, cutting across the Chara-ulách River, and then moving down the valley of the Gölynkaí River, again reached the vicinity of the Arctic Ocean, which forms a deep bay here. About eight or nine versts from the sea-coast lies the balagan Tass-Tumüss, where the roads to Ustjjansk /Ust-Yansk/ and to Werchojansk /Verkhoyansk/ intersect. We could not have wished for more comfortable quarters. We admired the enormous beams of our dwelling, which were several feet wide -- they had evidently /202/ been carried down to the sea from the distant south by the force of the currents and then, perhaps after being tossed about for a long time, had been deposited on this inhospitable shore; indeed, who can say whether they even grew on Asiatic soil or reached here from American shores by means of some still unknown ocean current. Animated by the merrily dancing fire of the fireplace, we found pleasure in the thought that now at last we would actually be turning away from here to the south, to where -- perhaps only after many weeks -- we would see trees like those that now sheltered us from the cold breath of the Arctic Ocean. Many a traveler before us had probably indulged in similar thoughts here; the inscriptions on the

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122 walls testified to many visitors, mostly merchants from Ustjjansk and Werchojansk -- even the clergyman from Bulún was not missing.

The stations along the more traveled roads in this northernmost part of Russia, even though they are not inhabited and therefore made more hospitable, are nevertheless a great boon to the traveler. Built and maintained by the administrative board, whose members themselves use them often enough on their official journeys, in favorably located places, usually near running water, they are generally provided with a supply of wood and sometimes even ice, for there prevails here the laudable custom that everyone passing through thinks of his successor and augments the supplies as much as he can.

122 What a comfortable feeling came over me when, after
123 hours of uninterrupted travel in the frightful cold, which -- especially when it is accompanied by the wind, as more commonly happens here in the vicinity of the ocean -- gradually penetrates even the warmest clothing, I finally saw a shower of sparks rising in the distance and soon glimpsed the ice windows, glowing through the darkness like fiery eyes, of the /203/ station heated by the Jakuten /Yakut/ who hurried on ahead. These obliging people could not hurry out to help me out of my wrappings quickly enough for me, but before entering the yurt I usually threw off my outer fur coat, stiff with ice, and then busied myself at the fire for a long time thawing out my beard, which was frozen to-
[276] gether in long icicles and often even to my clothing. Meanwhile my bedding was brought in and thawed out a little, and finally -- what ecstasy -- I lay on my bearskin and in front of me stood the steaming teakettle; with burning pipes -- it was impossible for me to smoke outdoors, although at every stop the Jakuten smoked their small pipes, which burned for only a few minutes, to be sure (as they are used by all the peoples of East Asia, especially the Chinese and Japanese) -- the hot tea before us, we, with Czekanowsky, conversed for hours about the experiences of the day, and only from time to time did I venture out to read the thermometer set up outside.

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● 122 Only with difficulty could I now bring myself to make astronomical observations, in spite of the stars shining most brilliantly in this magnificently clear air. The tips of my fingers were in a condition of continually losing skin and after every observation, during which I had to expose them for some time, were so frightfully painful that I -- otherwise not at all very sensitive -- once broke out in loud, nervous weeping and had to be taken back into the yurt almost forcibly by Czekanowsky.

[132] The most extreme cold during which I made successful observations with a Pistor reflecting circle and mercury horizon was -33.7° R. Since mercury freezes at -32° R., I kept mine in the warm yurt for some time before the observation so that it /204/ would not stiffen too quickly outside. The little needles of ice floating in the air, which cover the instrument and particularly the artificial horizon, are the greatest annoyance during observations; therefore in the most intense cold I could only observe the moon -- the sun, of course, no longer appeared above our horizon -- inasmuch as the images of even the brightest stars were difficult to see and often disappeared at the moment of observation. My respiratory organs also suffered considerably, because I could bring the instrument near my face only by holding my breath.

122 The next day's journey brought us into more cordial regions
123 again. After an eight-hour trip we reached the timber line, after we had come over a ridge into the river basin of the Omoloí (which flows into the Arctic Ocean) and thus had crossed the border of the Shigánsker Ulússes /Zhigansk ulus/. Our pleasure at having again reached the protective forest was dimmed only by the departure of our kind courier Atschkássow, who on the next day accompanied us only on the short distance to the next stan, Dshejelák-Dshaná, where we were to find new guides and

[622] fresh reindeer. We found here an excellent well-heated yurt, the dwelling of one of the wealthiest Jakuten /Yakut/ of the Werchojansk district, Martin Borogón, who at the same time was the community elder and had to provide for our further journey. Unfortunately he himself was on a trip, but he had instructed his

/204 cont./

122 123 son Iwán to take care of any officials passing through, and we were thus entertained in the most friendly manner, and on the following day preparations were made at once for our unimpeded further journey.

On this evening I celebrated my birthday, for which for many weeks I had been saving a few cigars, /205/ which -- although, as I have said before, they had by no means come from Havana -- as a pleasure missed for a long time, put us in the jolliest mood. As of late we had had only pipe tobacco, which we had managed to get in Ssiktjách and Bulún with great difficulty and which could hardly last as far as Werchojansk. Besides, our host had set before us a delicacy that we liked very much, a mixture of butter and whey, called konják here. It is made out of cow's milk and, to be sure, what interested us most, here on the spot. To our great astonishment we had noticed a few horses and cows just a few versts from our present lodgings, which we had certainly not expected here, scarcely 30 versts from the timber line and at a latitude of about 70°. In Ssiktjách, located still somewhat to the south and much farther from the timber line, Mrs. Rjeschétnikow, who otherwise, as has been mentioned, was very successful in her acclimatization experiments, had told us about the impossibility of raising livestock in that region, and even much farther upstream on the Lena we were told that there were no horses, to say nothing of cattle, which, indeed, is scarcely found at all along the Lena beyond Jakutsk and its close surroundings.

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We learned from our talkative host various details about his livestock. It consists of about 20 horses and over 10 head of cattle. The former were brought here by his grandfather and the present specimens were born and raised here. They belong to a small, but vigorous breed, have a thick pelt, and withstand the terrible cold very well. Summer and winter, day and night, they remain out in the open, and only the foals are treated somewhat more gently. /206/ Cattle raising, on the other hand, requires much greater effort. The stable abuts directly against the yurt and gets its warmth from it, and also, in order not to let any cold in, has only one door, into the yurt, which in fact brings into

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136 but since then have completely disappeared. They are therefore also retreating southward here just as along the Nishnaja /Nizhnyaya/ Tunguska. The wild sheep (tschubukún) found farther south in the Werchojansk Range had been heard of, but they are not found here even in the rockier parts of the tundra, although there, as well as here, marmots (tarbagán) are very common.

226 Our host also engaged in fishing with great success at the
439 mouth of the Omoloí, the yield of which -- mukssún, o'mul, tschir, and néljma -- except for what he uses himself, he for the most part exchanges for furs in Ustjjansk /Ust-Yansk/.

● 122 On the next day we continued our journey almost due south
13 and passed a very populous balagan, which was named for us as Iggitauýt, as well as several tributaries of the Great Omoloí, which lies to the east of the Little Omoloí which we had already crossed. We were told that the region abounded in swamps and lakes that were full of fish; the forest, although somewhat taller than that of the previous day, was still very poor in comparison with that found at the same latitude along the Olenék, alternating with great tundra-like plains. In general, it seems as though in the far north the /208/ extensive plains are not favorable for forest growth and that it remains relatively vigorous only in the more uneven terrain even up to very high latitudes. In the afternoon we reached the stan Dshüssál on the lake of the same name, where I decided to make some astronomical observations because of the exceptionally mild temperature of barely -20° R., according to which we were at 60° 38' latitude.

On our further travels the next morning we were surprised after a short trip along the shore of the Omoloí in the vicinity of the settlement Ojóma by a little grove of poplars (Populus suaveolens Fisch.). This poplar, according to the natives, reaches its northern boundary here, but has such small trunks that they are unfit for working. On the day before we had noticed many
133 willow thickets in all the river valleys that we crossed. From
122 Ojóma on a broader view of a quite considerable mountain range

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133 taking in the whole southern and part of the eastern horizon,
122 over which our route was to take us, opened up before us -- the Kullár Range, which, running in a northeasterly direction, seemingly parallel to the Chara-ulách Range, forms the watershed here between the Omoloí and the Jana /Yana/ basin. Although both the Kullár and the Chara-ulách ranges are probably only spurs of the main watershed between the Lena and the Jana, whose collective name, however, we could not discover, their appearance here is very different. Instead of the frequently picturesque, jagged, often conically-shaped peaks of the Chara-ulách, here we saw only massive rounded heights with steep
[137] slopes and broad flat valleys in between. After we had traveled about five versts from the Omoloí across a completely unwooded plain, we reached the /209/ foothills rising steeply, but not high, and covered with woods, and finally, after another six to eight versts, the completely treeless heights of the mountains; in the valley of an insignificant tributary of the Omoloí, the Kylagóttu, we reached the altitude of the pass, which rises at least 1,300 feet above the Omoloí and is topped by the surrounding peaks by
[136] another 400-500 feet. Here, by the way, we saw only a lower
[192] part of the range, which is said to reach much greater heights in the source area of the Omoloí, which is to be seen merely from the fact that wild sheep (tschubukún) are said to be found there in abundance, while they are still absent here.

122 13 Directly after the watershed we reached an insignificant brook, Kargýchala, already belonging to the Jana basin, down whose broad valley, running southwest, we soon reached the little river Tass-Apká and the stan of the same name, which was to serve as our lodging for the night. The southern slope of the Kullár Range is considerably less steep than the northern slope; on the other hand, the tree vegetation on the latter is more vigorous and goes up farther, probably likewise evidence that the climate becomes milder toward the shores of the Arctic Ocean, which was also shown by a comparison of the temperature observations in Ustjjansk /Ust-Yansk/ and Werchojansk /Verkhoyansk/, as well as the completely unanimous statements of the natives.

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880 as well as the completely unanimous statements of the natives.

• 122 Our further journey, always in a southwesterly direction, went down the valley of the Tass-Apká to where it empties into the Bytantaí River, where the region was already beginning to [132] become more populous. Everywhere we noted traces of human activity, fences and great haystacks; horses and cows roamed about in the open in spite of the snow falling heavily and the [137] prevailing temperature of about -25° R. The woods also began to look more imposing and we were especially pleased to see along the river banks /210/ now and then quite stately, straight, and thickly-branched trees, not seen for a long time. Unfortunately we were quite unexpectedly delayed here. In the stan Tass-Tumssá, which we reached soon after midday, the station manager, or rather his substitute, absolutely refused to grant us the necessary reindeer for our further journey, and he could not be induced to yield either by our official documents and threats that we would have him punished by the isprawnik /ispravnik/ or by the remonstrances of a Jakuten /Yakut/ elder who happened to be present. The latter, since he did not reside here, could only put his own two reindeer at our disposal, and thus it would have been difficult for us to do anything but turn for help to the authorities at Werchojansk /Verkhoyansk/, by which we would have lost several days at least, had not our guide up to here, Iwan Borogón, been kind enough to undertake our further advance to Werchojansk with his own reindeer.

122 On the next day we crossed a mountainous region and climbed 133 three ridges, Kuwaláss, Idomopút, and Kyrá, the middle one of which was quite insignificant, while the two others also seemed to rise only about 700 feet above the last night's lodging, and spent the night in the stan Tykák on the river of the same name, in the valley of which we covered the greatest part of the next day's journey and in doing so, in order to cut off the many bends, traveled sometimes on the one bank, sometimes on the other. [132] After climbing a ridge, Koptolák, rising about 1,000 feet over the immediate surroundings, we stopped at the stan of the same name, where toward the morning of November 17 I again noted

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132 a minimum temperature of -37.0° R., at which the mercury in a little bottle that stood beside the thermometer was solidly frozen; since November 5, when /211/ in the vicinity of Ssiktjách the minimum was -38° R., it had become milder, and in the night from November 11 to 12 in Dshejelák-Dshaná in the vicinity of the timber line I had even noted a minimum of only -18.7° R., and at 7:00 on the morning of the twelfth, only -14.5° R., but then it became colder again. When toward midnight I stepped outside the door of the yurt, I also had the opportunity to see a shining meteor moving in a long, fiery path through the stars shining most brilliantly in the intense cold.

● 122 The next day, November 17, brought us at last to another principal point of our journey, the district town of Werchojansk /Verkhoyansk/, which we reached at an early hour. It lies in the valley of the Jana /Yana/, into which we quickly descended down a fairly steep slope of about 900-1,000 feet from the nearest heights and then drove a while on the river itself.

/212/ Tenth Chapter

100 Werchojansk /Verkhoyansk/. -- N. S. Goróchow. -- The world's cold pole. -- The isprawnik /ispravnik/. -- Increase in the post tax. -- Antediluvian animal carcasses. -- Garden cultivation. -- Difficulties of the journey. -- Skoptsy. -- Northern lights. -- Arctic boundaries of some forest trees. -- Adventure on the Jana /Yana/. -- M. P. Bereshnow and his caravan. -- Silver ore -- Crossing the Werchojansk /Verkhoyansk/ Range. -- Cold quarters for the night.

122 361 We had not had too high an idea of Werchojansk /Verkhoyansk/, for we had already been very surprised in Turuchansk /Turukhansk/ to find not a single true street such as even the smallest villages located somewhat more to the south exhibit, but rather only individual houses, with quagmires and puddles in between; nevertheless Werchojansk now fell behind even our already very modest expectations. To be sure, it looked cleaner than Turuchansk, for everything was covered with deep snow, but the place was even

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122 361 smaller than we had thought -- the church with the house of the clergyman, the building for the isprawnik /ispravnik/, then the pride of Werchojansk -- the two-story house of the merchant Nikíta Stemjónowitsch Gorochow -- two or three other houses and several yurts, very scattered, and that was all.

122 123 Nevertheless we were heartily glad that we were here and were most pleasantly surprised by the friendly reception in the house of Mr. Gorochow. The present master of the house was still a young man /213/ barely 30 years old and, as was soon shown, relatively highly cultivated; he had Petersburg newspapers, played the violin, and busied himself with photography. We obtained from him quite a good photographic view of Werchojansk. He obviously belonged, so to speak, among the patricians of this town, if he is not the only one of this type, for the few other men who were visible more in the background during our reception were not introduced and seemed to be dii minorum gentium.

122 In those places in Russia, and particularly in Siberia, where there are no guesthouses, therefore in practically all of them, with the exception of the largest towns along the important roads to Moscow, there are available for travelers who pass through on orders from the government temporary lodgings which, for the most part -- of course, only according to local conceptions -- are furnished quite respectably and usually belong to the more highly esteemed inhabitants. One pays nothing here in rent, but, on the other hand, does pay for service and, of course, for food and drink. Here in Werchojansk it was different, for the Gorochow family, for several generations, would not be deprived of entertaining distinguished travelers -- free of charge, of course -- by themselves. Thus a few years before us Baron Maydell and Dr. Neumann rested here on their journey to the Tschuktschen /Chukchee/ country and back from there; indeed, almost 50 years before us Baron Wrangell /Wrangel/ stayed with a forefather of our friendly host, who, however, in Wrangell's travel account (in the Russian edition) is erroneously called Dorochow.

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122 Werchojansk, although, as I have just said, scarcely deserving the name of village, much less that of town, has nevertheless become well known in the most distant lands, at least to scholars, for, as has been /214/ proved, it is the coldest point on the whole surface of the earth. /The remainder of p. 214, p. 215, and the first two paragraphs of p. 216 are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text. Page 216 continues as follows./

122 In Werchojansk our first interest was the isprawnik, who was to provide for our further journey, but, above all, had to give us an explanation as to why up to this point he had simply done nothing for the expedition. Only the great kindness of the Jakuten /Yakut/ had made it /217/ possible for us to reach Werchojansk; otherwise we would have been in the sad plight of having to winter somewhere in the far north, with our supplies almost entirely exhausted and only very little money, for we could not have counted on help directly from Jakutsk /Yakutsk/ before the next spring. I prefer to omit the name of this noble individual here, for unfortunately I cannot report anything good about him. The governor's orders, to do everything possible in the interests of our expedition, but especially to make arrangements for our unimpeded return journey as soon as we appeared at any point along the Lena -- he had had these orders as early as May, but had simply disregarded them, because, as he very naïvely explained, he did not know what he should do. Even the very obvious thought of notifying the Jakut officials along our route had not occurred to him.

I soon found an explanation for this quite incredible indolence: namely, the good man is supposed to be very addicted to the vice of drink in the well-known Siberian form -- which, incidentally, also occurs here and there in Europe -- sapoï. Those addicted to it drink only periodically, but then in such a way that they are incapable of anything for some time -- the duration of the attack varies from a few days to months and similarly the sober periods are very different, according to the severity of the malady. A characteristic of this sickness, for that is indeed the most accurate designation for it, is the frightful

122 /217 cont./
repugnance against all spirits during the intervals. If a true Siberian at a reception -- and, according to the custom of the country this takes place in connection with every visit in the form of a so-called sakússka, i.e., a variety of spirits along with the necessary spiciest possible morsels to bite on (the direct translation of sakússka) /218/ -- does not accept the customary grain spirits (otschísch-tschennoje, i.e., purified, sc. whisky), but excuses himself in embarrassment, the chances are at least ten to one that he is a victim of sapoí. The drinking of spirits in itself, even within limits that somewhat exceed those customary in Europe, does not seem to be harmful in any way here, but rather to be strengthening, particularly for Europeans and their descendants. The fact is, as I can testify from my own experience and that of many of my European acquaintances, that the intoxicating effect of spirits is much weaker in Siberia than in Europe. Czekanowsky and I were emaciated during the Olenék expedition, on which we had to get along without any alcoholic beverages at all for about half a year, but with quite adequate nourishment
273 on the whole otherwise. Liquor certainly does not, however,
171 have this beneficial influence on the indigenous tribes and has a very intoxicating effect on them. I do not know whether the substitutes used in its place by the various Siberian peoples have more beneficial effects. The Burjaten /Buryat/ in southern Siberia get drunk on tarassún, a milk liquor with a most horrible taste; the Tschuktschen /Chukchee/, on a decoction of fly agaric; the Jakuten /Yakut/ even on enormous quantities of butter which they devour in a liquid state by the pood (pood ≅ 40 pounds) and thus put themselves into a drunken-like stupor. /The last paragraph on p. 218, pp. 219-229, and the first paragraph on p. 230 are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text. Page 230 continues as follows./

122 On the next day /December 1/ we reached the last station,
133 Kŏng-urách, before the watershed of the Werchojansk /Verkhoyansk/ Range. The mountains came ever closer to our route, but the ascent was so gradual that without watching the barometer we could scarcely have imagined that we were ascending a high range and
800 would soon be at the height of the pass. At this station we met the

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135 are practically unexploited, at most in a primitive fashion and only occasionally by one or /232/ another of the Jakuten /Yakut/. A Russian mining engineer is said to have explored the region years ago and reported that mining would not pay, because the ore deposits lie in a waterless and woodless region. That would hardly be an obstacle in America.

122 At the cozy fire of the Jakut fireplace we enjoyed the
[369] hospitality of Mr. Bereshnów and his traveling companions, who hastened to serve us all kinds of things that we had not seen for many a long day -- they had come from the capital, Jakutsk /Yakutsk/, which among the inhabitants of the Jakuten country plays just such a role as St. Petersburg or Moscow does for European Russians. It is simply the ideal of the greatest possible comfort, fashion, and culture. We were able to express our gratitude only by presenting some articles from our traveling household that we could now dispense with, particularly some enameled iron plates, which were still unknown to the gentlemen and aroused their great admiration as being most practical. /The last paragraph of p. 232 and pp. 233-236 are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text./

/237/ Eleventh Chapter

Northern virgin forest. -- Water flowing with the mercury frozen. -- G. F. Ssolowjów. -- Smallpox epidemic. -- Jakut /Yakut/ post station. -- Arrival in Jakutsk /Yakutsk/. -- The governor. -- Bishop Dionýssij. -- The trade of Jakutsk. -- Furs. -- The climate and agriculture. -- History of same and statistical data. -- The classic Progymnasium and other points of interest. -- Industry of the Jakuten /Yakut/. -- Return journey.

122 We left our comfortable night's lodging as early as possible
137 on the morning of December 3. The route led us down the valley of the Tukulána through a magnificent forest, more beautiful than any we had ever seen. The eye of the traveler coming from the north is delighted here for the first time by enormously high and

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137 thick trees, standing magnificently tall and close together, with rich and varied undergrowth. Almost all types of Siberian timber appear here together and in such beautiful specimens that one can scarcely believe that they are standing at their arctic boundary -- first the white birch in whole stands of the most beautiful trees, then the mountain ash (Sorbus aucuparia) with its beautiful red berries, which the snow had not yet knocked off, also the black alder (Prunus padus), and the fir (Pinus abies), the latter at first in individual specimens, then in quite magnificent groups, and then, of course, all the other /238/ types of timber found farther to the north -- larch, willow, poplar, aspen, dwarf cedar, as vigorous here as in the distant south. We missed only one forest tree -- the Scotch pine (Pinus sylvestris), but we greeted even it on the following day.

● 122 133 Wherever the dense forest occasionally permitted us a view, we saw on either side of the valley high, wild, jagged mountains of exactly the same character as those of the watershed crossed by us. On the previous evening it had seemed to me more than once as though a murmur like that of flowing water was to be heard under the stones over which we climbed, but in the uncertain moonlight none was to be found; today in the daylight, however, we saw it quite plainly and were glad to have escaped the danger of falling into the water in the dark and then undoubtedly freezing our feet. Middendorff in his work speaks a good deal about this peculiar phenomenon which is closely related to the Aufeisbildungen / surface ice formations/; nevertheless a truly satisfactory explanation cannot yet be given. Water flowing for quite long distances at close to -40° R. is certainly difficult to explain, even though one thinks of hot springs, which do come into it. Only very detailed local observations in all seasons of the year, which, of course, the naturalist passing through cannot undertake, make it possible to solve such puzzles.

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122 After a seven-hour trip -- the distance could at most amount
136 to 45 versts -- we reached the station of Bodogóle, where the inhabitants told us something about the hunting here. Concerning big game here, there is first of all the common mountain sheep
[321] (tschubukún), whose meat is said to be very tasty. The skin is also highly valued and carved work is made out of the horns; /239/ we saw only a few small spoons very simply worked. The elk is found everywhere; on the other hand there are hardly any beasts of prey at all, at least no wolves, which are found only to the north from the mountains to Kŏng-urách, but then are completely absent as far as Jakutsk /Yakutsk/; the glutton, whose pelt is eagerly sought by the Jakuten /Yakut/ for fur caps, is found only very rarely; as for fur-bearing animals, there are many squirrels (also flying and striped ones) and ermine, and, it seems, sable.

122 Below the station of Bodogóle the mountains west of the
[133] route become lower and eminences covered with forest appear. To be sure, on the right bank of the river Antimirdjách one again sees barren peaks, but they soon recede and the range then disappears altogether. Once again on this day, at the end of a very wretched trip, we had to resort to a log house built in exactly the same style as the one of two days before. The local name for these houses is powárnja, i.e., kitchen. Although this powárnja had been built only a few months ago, it was almost of even less use than the earlier one, and again we had to sleep in our traveling clothes. Fortunately it was for the last time, for the day's trip of December 5 brought us to the station of Tánda, which lies on the left bank of the Aldán, and from here on a more densely populated
439 region begins. Before we reached Tánda we met the Jakutsk
484 merchant Gawríil Feofánow Ssolowjów with his entire caravan, who likewise carries on trade with Kolýmsk, although not directly, but rather by way of the settlement Rússkoje Ustje (i.e., Russian river-mouth) on the Indigírka. We were interested to learn from him -- we had stopped at a yurt along the way -- that he had formerly sent regularly organized expeditions to the New Siberian Islands, which had brought back to him rich booty in mammoth tusks. He had /240/ not undertaken any for many years because

439 /240 cont./
484 of the great dangers of the trip, but now he was considering it again, for he rightly assumed that in the course of the years a great deal of fossil ivory must have been washed out there again. He also expressed to us his willingness, in case the Imperial Geographical Society planned a journey of exploration to those islands, to support it whole-heartedly and perhaps even accompany it himself, but in any case he would furnish dogs and guides.

● 122 After we crossed the Aldán, which has quite low banks here, quite late in the evening because of the stop, we reached the station after two more versts, from which we could not depart until after noon on the next day because we had to give our reindeer a rest. In spite of this they were so exhausted that the Jakuten /Yakut/ had to walk alongside during the whole trip, and only with difficulty by means of a six-hour journey were we able to drag ourselves to the next station, Katyngnátskije, scarcely 30 versts away. It was certainly not a brilliant conclusion to our long reindeer journey. From here on to Jakutsk /Yakutsk/ we were to be transported by horses, but great difficulties arose as a result of the lack of suitable vehicles, for here for the most part one only travels by riding. After long deliberation the Jakuten /Yakut/ finally agreed to hitch a horse in front of each narte, and thus on December 7 at about 9:00 in the morning we were able to set out
122 again. The horses took us on somewhat faster than the exhausted
731 reindeer, but that did not help us much. Obviously the post arrangements were still in their infancy here, but that was the least of it -- in an emergency help could have been requested from the governor through a messenger, for we were still only about 150 versts from Jakutsk -- the specter of a terrible /241/ smallpox epidemic loomed before us. Dark rumors about it had already reached us -- they still fell short of the reality. Everywhere along our way and in almost all the stations the stricken and dead were said to be lying about, but we nevertheless had to go in, because a journey with the mercury frozen is impossible, in spite of the warmest clothing, without occasionally getting warm.

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122 731 At the very next station, Toraískij, which we reached at 1:00 in the afternoon, we were obliged to halt. The manageress complained to us that her husband had left the day before to get horses, and she was very afraid that since he had been gone so long he had fallen ill with smallpox. Unfortunately here, too, our Cossack proved utterly useless. Even though the Cossack's uniform is generally greatly respected, our unfortunate companion never succeeded in arousing anything but laughter whenever he was supposed to show his authority, because he could not hide his ineptitude. We had sent him ahead with an interpreter and our papers to the next station, Karagát-erdún, where a Jakut /Yakut/ authority -- the Borogónskaja upráwa /uprava/ -- was to be found, in order to have horses sent from there, but he did not come back at all, and we therefore started out the next morning without him, since we had succeeded in rounding up a few horses. We met him on the way -- he brought the almost self-evident news that he had accomplished nothing. From this station on our journey finally proceeded without any particular obstacles. At every station, to be sure, we heard about the smallpox and the sick, who were said to be present in the closest 342 731 proximity, but we did not see any. All the conditions for a rapid spread of the epidemic through contagion certainly existed in the frightfully stuffy air of the yurts, filled with mephitic vapors. Since the /242/ livestock is very often found in the same rooms in which people are quartered, the air is so poisoned that anyone entering from the pure winter air actually loses his breath, and he needs some time to become accustomed to it. I remember when I once entered a station and, half stupified by this atmosphere and with my glasses badly dimmed, abruptly collided with a post nag, which seemed very much surprised that I begrudged him his favorite place near the fireplace.

122 At the following stations of Jeljegnjátskie, Kamesták, and Makárinskij, we stopped for only a short time, an hour at most, and traveled through the night, thus reaching the last station before Jakutsk -- Karjalákskij -- at 2:00 on the afternoon of December 9. From here we first of all dispatched the Cossack

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122 to inform the chief of police of Jakutsk of our arrival and to request assignment to temporary quarters; we ourselves followed an hour later. After we had crossed the very broad river -- if I am not mistaken, the Lena is supposed to be eight or nine versts wide here; this is difficult to estimate in winter because we did not cross in a straight line -- we approached Jakutsk and finally stopped in front of police headquarters, where we were expected and were immediately led to our quarters. Our hope that the Cossack would be more useful here in civilized conditions than in the wilderness was not fulfilled. Most delighted that he had luckily saved his own skin, he had rushed up to the chief of police with the cry, "We have arrived," and since the latter, after long questioning, could not make out who this "we" actually might be, he was about to be thrown out when he finally remembered the papers, from /243/ which the chief of police then learned of the arrival of our expedition, long and impatiently awaited.

The dwelling assigned to us left nothing to be desired with regard to comfort -- the large drawing room contained divans and armchairs, which were covered with red velvet; two Cossacks were assigned to us the next day, in order to do all the necessary shopping for us and to serve us as guides in the city. Immediately after our arrival the chief of police paid us a visit in order to welcome us in the name of the governor and to inquire about our wants. Our immediate wish was for a thorough cleansing -- we really looked very wild. All that was to be taken care of the next day, a bathing place heated for us and a barber found. The latter was the most difficult, for there were only one or two barbers in the entire city, who had other occupations besides and therefore were only rarely available.

Since our Cossack had not done what we had asked him to do, but the new attendants had not yet arrived, I set out myself to buy some things to celebrate our safe arrival. The shops were closed, but I heard that the Aristocrats Club was nearby and concluded from experiences in other cities that there would have to be at least a temporary dining room where for money and kind words one could get something, even at a late hour. I was not

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122 mistaken. After long knocking, it was opened, and as soon as a lamp was lighted I was most surprised when I was addressed by my name, "Ferdinánd Ferdinándowitsch." He was a former gymnasiast from Irkutsk who knew me from there and was highly pleased to be the first /244/ to greet me here. He immediately called his foster father, a German baker who held the position of restaurateur at the club and gladly put his kitchen and cellar at my disposal. Czekanowsky was greatly delighted when after a short time I came home again with my companions, everyone loaded down with food and drink. How we relished food prepared in the European manner, fine pastry, European wine, after we had been deprived of them for a whole year!

The next day was devoted exclusively to getting our external appearance in as good a condition as possible. The barber was busy at other things in the forenoon, and so we could not accept the kind invitation of the governor, since we could not bring ourselves to present ourselves to him in our present state. If I had known at the time that there was photographic equipment here, I would not have failed to have our expedition photographed in pleno immediately after our arrival. Our clothing, which had lain in the trunks for almost a year, did not look fit for polite society, but the furs especially left much to be desired; I had to make my first visit to the governor in my old worn sheepskin, but on the next day, through the kindness of the above-mentioned German baker, I obtained a magnificent raccoon fur. We could only console ourselves with the thought that in Jakutsk /Yakutsk/ no great demands would be made on the toilet of travelers appearing here, especially from the north.

On December 11, in a sled likewise put at our disposal by the chief of police, we paid our respects first to the governor and then to the archhiereij (i.e., archpriest, here bishop). The former, His Excellency Major-General Victor Páwlowitsch Dewítte, an elderly, unmarried gentleman, received us most graciously /245/ and asked us to dine with him throughout our stay in Jakutsk, which, of course, we accepted with gratitude. The

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122 fact that we had not received any assistance from him during our journey was due to the vagueness in the official papers sent to him by the Geographical Society. He had thought that we would explore only the upper course of the Olenék and then would return via Wiljuisk /Vilyuisk/ and had therefore sent the ispráwnik /ispravnik/ there the strictest orders. The latter, however, probably as lacking in energy as the one in Werchojansk /Verkhoyansk/, perhaps for the same reason, had answered all inquiries by saying that despite the most diligent investigations he had not heard anything at all about our expedition and therefore could not send any guides or other assistance to it, we had probably left his district entirely and gone into the neighboring district of Turuchansk /Turukhansk/. This was reported to the governor general in Irkutsk, and there, as well as in Europe, there was great anxiety about us, for only a major mishap would have caused us to change our itinerary. In any case the governor had also notified the isprawnik of Werchojansk, but, especially after the onset of winter, no longer expected us to come from there himself. All of our correspondence that had arrived in the meantime and 1,000 rubles which the Geographical Society had sent us as supplementary aid were likewise in Wiljuisk. Of course the governor nevertheless had the money paid out to us, for we urgently needed it. Furthermore, we learned from him that the Geographical Society proposed that, after sufficient recovery, of course, we should start out from here again in the following spring to travel from the Lena across to the Jenisseí /Yenisei/, and in doing so explore in particular the completely unknown basins of the Anábara and Lake Dshésse. /246/ We had to decline the offer, for, quite apart from the state of our health, we had already become convinced that such an expedition could only be undertaken from the Jenisseí, because is Jakutsk /Yakutsk/ it would hardly be possible to equip it adequately, or only with a disproportionate financial outlay.

114 122 On the same day, at the governor's residence, we also met the Acting Councillor of State, Dr. of Med. von Awgustinówitsch, who had been delegated here to investigate the health conditions in Siberia and intended to visit Werchojansk and, if I am not mistaken, Kolýmsk as well. He had already

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114 been in southern Siberia earlier, and in particular on the island of
122 of Sakhalin, and from there, since he was not only a medical man, but a very competent naturalist, had taken back to Europe excellent collections, chiefly botanical. I later had the pleasure of renewing his acquaintance in St. Petersburg, from where he now makes almost annual trips to Sakhalin as a doctor on a ship of the Imperial Navy that takes convicts there. The museums of the capital have obtained through Mr. von Awgustinówitsch
114 most valuable contributions from there remote regions. Further-
126 more at the hospitable table of the governor we met almost daily an officer (now lieutenant-colonel) stationed here, Nikolai Iwánowitsch Ssábo, who owned photographic equipment, with which he had taken many views of the town of Jakutsk /Yakutsk/, as well as portraits of Jakut /Yakut/ men and women in their
126 national costumes. Czekanowsky and I unfortunately could not possibly get permanent impressions of the scenery and folk types of the regions traversed by us. With all the pursuits that we were obliged to do -- astronomical, magnetic, meteorological, hypsometric observations, guiding the route of march with the /247/ compass and clock, geological surveys, making the richest possible botanical, zoological, and geological collections, managing affairs, etc. -- we could not think of taking photographs or making sketches, quite apart from the fact that photography, besides good equipment, also requires considerable practice, and we could certainly not have acquired either of these in Irkutsk in the short time left to us to prepare for the
114 expedition. The art of photography, moreover, seems to have spread only recently to the land of the Jakuten and, as I have already said, even to Werchojansk. The former governor of Jakutsk for many years and the predecessor of General Dewitte, Privy-Councillor von Stubendorff, whose memory is still held in high esteem among the inhabitants -- he was an army doctor and obtained this high post in recognition of his accurate knowledge of the country -- had no photographs to exhibit among his very large collections.

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● 122 The Bishop of Jakutsk, Dionýssij -- formerly missionary Chitrow -- surprised us even more. I had often enough had the honor of presenting myself to the highest government officials of the state, but I had never been in close contact with a high dignitary of the Greek Orthodox Church and cannot deny that I had some dread about this visit. How pleased I was when, as soon as we were announced, he hastened toward us in the anteroom with outstretched arms -- a handsome old man with magnificent snow-white hair and full beard, wearing a sky-blue robe -- and called out to me, "Tell me, now, where does the Siberian pole of intensity of terrestrial magnetism actually lie?" With every word of the ensuing conversation he showed a deep, penetrating understanding and a lively interest in all the natural sciences. /248/ and he was also familiar with French and German literature, although he himself could not speak these languages. All due respect to such a lord bishop of the Church, whose like is not often found in civilized countries and other confessions!

We conversed even more pleasantly during a second visit, when he spoke a great deal about his former journeys -- I have already mentioned them several times. He had specially invited me to breakfast, which consisted exclusively of fish, since the highest clergy in Russia may never eat meat, even outside of fasting. There were at least 15 different dishes: besides the sardines, caviar, etc. known in Europe, also native delicacies, such as pupkí, red and white salted fish bellies, of which the former in particular, which come from Kolýmsk, are highly prized here.

Inasmuch as the gentlemen mentioned were all unmarried and therefore did not entertain, I had no opportunity to become acquainted with the rest of Jakutsk society, which consists mostly of more or less rich merchants, and could not see for myself whether even now, as Wrangell /Wrangel/ says, the Jakut /Yakut/ language plays about the same role in the most distinguished houses here as French does in Europe. People seem to live quite comfortably here and even have an amateur theater. We were told that Gógol's "Marriage" was in rehearsal for the coming holidays.

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291 281 In all other handcrafts, too, the Jakuten /Yakut/ do very commendable work. The Jakut wading boots made of horse leather with flexible soles, which are absolutely waterproof, are highly praised. The carpets made out of black and white horsehide in various patterns, usually put together in checkerboard fashion, form a separate industry.

● 122 After we had recovered somewhat and had gotten rid of our useless Cossack, who was sent along with a courier dispatched to Irkutsk by the governor, we also considered our departure. We had to make the journey as rapidly as possible, because along the greater part of our way, just as here in Jakutsk the smallpox epidemic raged at the highest pitch. All our quickly won friends here, among whom I must mention the veterinary Dr. Hollmann, a Livonian, who has befriended more than one traveler, gathered together in our quarters on the afternoon of December 16 in order to see us off. Since we ourselves were now spared the great concern about our collections and instruments, which for the most part were being sent, well packed, at government expense -- the Imperial Geographical Society enjoys the privilege of free transport for all shipments addressed to them or sent by them, provided only that the individual packages do not exceed one pood in weight -- it was all the same to us that the parting was prolonged until late in the evening.

In two sleds, Czekanowsky and I in a kibitka purchased here, the Tungus in a baggage sled to be repacked at every station, we finally raced out /259/ into the winter night, now again, according to the custom of the country, a stouthearted team of three horses in front of us. Although the still unfamiliar section of our present route of travel to Kirensk -- circa 2,000 versts -- offered enough of interest to us and in many places was particularly distinguished by picturesque beauty, we could no longer permit ourselves scientific investigations under the prevailing circumstances. We went on without rest day and night; there was no question of any difficulties in transport because, by means of the courier sent ahead of us, all the station masters were instructed to have the best horses waiting for us; at most our sleds occasionally needed some repairs. The way led, with a few

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122 interruptions, which were chiefly presented by Aufeis /surface ice/, over the ice of the Lena. The narrow road driven on was elevated above the surrounding surface of the snow almost everywhere, so that every approaching sled caused a halt, sometimes a very long one, when the vehicles, in the attempt to turn aside, fell off the roadway into the soft snow and then could be righted again only with great effort. More than once we were awakened out of a sound sleep by a sudden snow-bath, which, at a temperature of about -30° R is not a very pleasant surprise. My sole scientific work at the stations consisted of reading the aneroid in order later perhaps to calculate from that the approximate altitudes.

122 342 262 Never before or afterwards have I entered the stations with such repugnance as on this journey. In the Jakut /Yakut/ yurt between Werchojansk /Verkhoyansk/ and Jakutsk /Yakutsk/ it did not really smell pleasant, but here the stench was really beyond all conception. The dwellers along this part of the Lena, Jakuten as well as Russians, favor the /260/ peculiar taste of eating their fish, not prepared fresh or in any other civilized fashion, but after keeping them until they are completely fermented. All the dwellings are so poisoned with this horrible odor that it is actually hardly possible for a European to exist in them, to say nothing of eating, which, of course, is simply impossible outdoors. At every station where we wanted to eat, the provisions brought with us from Jakutsk, roasts and baked goods which our helpful friends had prepared, had to be kept in front of the fire for some time in order to thaw out to some extent. 122 It was undoubtedly on this very journey that I contracted the scorbutic complaint of which the European doctors could not completely cure me until several years later. It was therefore most agreeable to us when we received the news in the district capital, Oljókminsk /Olekminsk/, which we reached on the forenoon of December 20, that quarters were ready for us, since the isprawnik /ispravnik/ had been instructed in a special letter from the governor to give us as hospitable a reception as possible. Soon afterwards he appeared himself and very cordially invited us to lunch. We rested here a full 24 hours and then went on again to our next principal station, the hospitable Bánschtschikowa, not far from Kirensk, the previously mentioned

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122 point of departure of both this and the Tunguska expedition. We hurried so fast that we did not even take the time to make an excursion from the station of Nochtúisk to the nearby so-called residences of the local gold-washings. That is, this is the name given to the central points in which the officials of the gold washings live, where all the supplies are stored, and where possibly even the owners of the mines, if they /261/ /illustration appears here/ deign to visit them, might stop. The greatest luxury prevails here, even according to European conceptions, along with unlimited hospitality. I still recall with pleasure the exceedingly gracious reception given us upon our return from the Tunguska expedition in Jenisseisk /Yeniseisk/ at the home of the wealthy gold-washer v. Basilewsky, where I also had the pleasure of greeting the chief administrator, Mr. R. v. Pfeiffer, a former fellow-student, who was living here with his wife and children in a house furnished with the greatest comfort.

[197] After we had crossed, on December 23 in the station of Sherbinsk /Zherbinsk/, the boundary of the province of Jakutsk, at which the Jakut language also ceases as though chopped off, we entered Bánschtschikowa on the morning of December 28, where we were received like old friends by the entire Dmítrejew family and were able to devote a few days entirely to nursing our very weakened health. Our friendly hosts tirelessly exerted themselves to get us anything that might please us; we even had to go into their supply chamber in order to choose our wine. The most expensive wines of every possible kind lay stored there solely for strangers, for our simple hosts hardly drank them at all and could not even distinguish the kinds; in view of the many connections with the neighboring gold washings, however, strangers with more pampered palates than we poor scorbutic travelers had often turned in here. A short time before even the governor of Irkutsk had called here and with all his rank was received with the appropriate honors.

439 Besides all their other many business activities, the
122 Dmítrejew brothers also carry on a very considerable fur trade, especially in squirrel skins, since the skins from the /262/ neighboring Oljókminsk district are distinguished among all the

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122 squirrel furs by their very dark, sometimes almost completely black
439 coloring and therefore are the most valuable. I would have gladly used this favorable opportunity to buy myself a good fur here first-hand, but I was afraid of the smallpox epidemic, which can surely easily be carried by furs.

122 In Bánschtschikowa we parted from the last two remaining traveling companions of our long journey, Golé and Sseliphón. The former, from Jakutsk on, had been guilty of many things, for he had yielded too much to drinking spirits after long deprivation, and therefore was not honorably discharged, i.e., he received only the stipulated compensation and, as a present, a Jakut carpet which I had entrusted to him and which was completely ruined as a result of his negligence. I presume that after this farewell he did not think of us again as friends until he had received the caftan of honor for this expedition, bestowed upon him at our recommendation. Sseliphón, on the other hand, was speechless with delight. He did not have a clear conscience, by any means, but since he had recently changed greatly for the better, in particular from Werchojansk on, where we had had him locked up for two days by the isprawnik /ispravnik/, we felt it was possible to make him a present of various household articles that had now become dispensable, among other things, a brass teakettle which he had guarded with particular fondness throughout the trip. It is quite possible, as Czekanowsky thought, that he set up a household on the Tunguska immediately after his return with the treasures that we gave him; in any case he would have made a great impression on his female compatriots, for in Jakutsk he /263/ bought himself various toilet articles undoubtedly still unknown along the Tunguska, for example, rose pomade, which he used lavishly.

After we had spent the evening of December 30 with our friends in Bánschtschikowa, we continued our journey and reached Irkutsk without incident on the morning of January 5, 1875, most warmly greeted by our friends.